

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition

www.ccsjn.org / sjn@ccsjn.org

March 10, 2019

Volume 37 Number 10



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 rfrick@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

Tuesday, March 12

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Wednesday, March 13

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Thursday, March 14

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Friday, March 15

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, March 16

5:30 p.m. Joseph Sacco, Jr., req.,
Anne Sacco

Sunday, March 17

8:00 a.m. Mel Fleisher, req.
Alan and Sharon Janks

10:30 a.m. Kathryn Bauernfeind, req.
Bauernfeind Family

Mass Schedule - March 16/17

Saturday	5:30 p.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Rick Rusk
Reader	Linda Caprio
Altar Server	Cucchiara Family
Ministers of the Eucharist	Lyle Garcia
.....	Jim Oelkers, Debby Kelemen
Sunday	8:00 a.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Rick Rusk
Reader	Brent Herrig
Altar Server	Kennedy Family
Ministers of the Eucharist	Diane Lehnert
.....	Gail Battell, Maritza Perez Proano
Sunday	10:30 a.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Rick Rusk
Reader	Steve Bauernfeind
Altar Server	Connery Family
Music Eucharistic Minister	Mary D'Avella
Ministers of the Eucharist	Ron Pojedinec, Patti Rittman
.....	Doris Royal, Peter Royal, Marlene Milko

Parish Calendar

Sunday, March 10 - First Sunday of Lent

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

Monday, March 11 - Lenten Weekday

10:00 a.m. S.H.I.P. (Office and Church Center Kitchen)
7:00 p.m. Small Group (Drexel Room)

Tuesday, March 12 - Lenten Weekday

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

Wednesday, March 13 - Lenten Weekday

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
10:30 a.m. Small Group (Narthex)
7:00 p.m. Social Ministry Meeting (Seton Room)
7:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting (Reception Area)
7:30 p.m. Small Group (Upper Room)

Thursday, March 14 - Lenten Weekday

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 15 - Lenten Weekday

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

Saturday, March 16 - Saint Frances of Rome, Religious

8:00 a.m. Women's Spirituality Coffee (Drexel Room)
3:30 p.m. First Eucharist - Session #3 (Church Center)
5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

Sunday, March 17 - Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
9:00 a.m. Small Group (Seton Room)
10:30 a.m. Mass - Welcome (Church)



Remembered at Mass



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

Deceased: Percy Davids, father of Mauricia Nacamuli, 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 (continued)

SECTION ONE: MAN'S VOCATION LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

1699 Life in the Holy Spirit fulfills the vocation of man (chapter one). This life is made up of divine charity and human solidarity (chapter two). It is graciously offered as salvation (chapter three).

CHAPTER ONE: THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

1700 The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God (article 1); it is fulfilled in his vocation to divine beatitude (article 2). It is essential to a human being freely to direct himself to this fulfillment (article 3). By his deliberate actions (article 4), the human person does, or does not, conform to the good promised by God and attested by moral conscience (article 5). Human beings make their own contribution to their interior growth; they make their whole sentient and spiritual lives into means of this growth (article 6). With the help of grace they grow in virtue (article 7), avoid sin, and if they sin they entrust themselves as did the prodigal son¹ to the mercy of our Father in heaven (article 8). In this way they attain to the perfection of charity. ¹ Lk 15:11-32.

Article 6

MORAL CONSCIENCE

1776 "Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart at the right moment.... For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God.... His conscience is man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths."⁴⁷ ⁴⁷ GS 16.

I. The Judgment of Conscience

1777 Moral conscience,⁴⁸ present at the heart of the person, enjoins him at the appropriate moment to do good and to avoid evil. It also judges particular choices, approving those that are good and denouncing those that are evil.⁴⁹ It bears witness to the authority of truth in reference to the supreme God to which the human person is drawn, and it welcomes the commandments. When he listens to his conscience, the prudent man can hear God speaking.

1778 Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed. In all he says and does, man is obliged to follow faithfully what he knows to be just and right. It is by the judgment of his conscience that man perceives and recognizes the prescriptions of the divine law:

Conscience is a law of the mind; yet [Christians] would not grant that it is nothing more; I mean that it was not a dictate, nor conveyed the notion of responsibility, of duty, of a threat and a promise.... [Conscience] is a messenger of him, who, both in nature and in grace, speaks to us behind a veil, and teaches and rules us by his representatives. Conscience is the aboriginal Vicar of Christ.⁵⁰

1779 It is important for every person to be sufficiently present to himself in order to hear and follow the voice of his conscience. This requirement of interiority is all the more necessary as life often distracts us from any reflection, self-examination or introspection: Return to your conscience, question it.... Turn inward, brethren, and in everything you do, see God as your witness.⁵¹

1780 The dignity of the human person implies and requires uprightness of moral conscience. Conscience includes the perception of the principles of morality (synderesis); their application in the given circumstances by practical discernment of reasons and goods; and finally judgment about concrete acts yet to be performed or already performed. The truth about the moral good, stated in the law of reason, is recognized practically and concretely by the prudent judgment of conscience. We call that man prudent who chooses in conformity with this judgment.

1781 Conscience enables one to assume responsibility for the acts performed. If man commits evil, the just judgment of conscience can remain within him as the witness to the universal truth of the good, at the same time as the evil of his particular choice. The verdict of the judgment of conscience remains a pledge of hope and mercy. In attesting to the fault committed, it calls to mind the forgiveness that must be asked, the good that must still be practiced, and the virtue that must be constantly cultivated with the grace of God: We shall . . . reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.⁵²

1782 Man has the right to act in conscience and in freedom so as personally to make moral decisions. "He must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience. Nor must he be prevented from acting according to his conscience, especially in religious matters."⁵³

To Be Continued

PASTOR'S CORNER

Our focus in the beginning of Lent is: Prayer, Fasting and Giving. These sound so easy. However, do not think that easy is powerless. Filled with the grace of Lent these things have the potential to lead us, and draw us, closer to Jesus Christ. Lent is a turning to Him and opening our hearts to Him. This leads us to a new and exciting relationship with Jesus in our lives that we have never had before. Let us be open to a "new" relationship! We begin with: Prayer, Fasting and Giving!

God bless,
Fr. Rick

STEWARDSHIP RESPONSES

Thank you **Lyle Garcia** for your talk on Stewardship Weekend. You did a good job and we already have over 60 volunteer returns. So please help Lyle reach his goal of exceeding last year's stewardship returns and return your form!

Number of Parish Families... 299
Parishioner Responses 66

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you to all who baked or supplied food for the Stewardship coffees after each of the Masses last weekend. This is a perfect example of parishioners supporting the parish in stewardship. If you would like to bake, or supply food for our after Mass coffees or special events it is an easy service. You just get an email when we have a need and if you're able to participate for the specific date you reply back. If not convenient, you volunteer the next time there is a need. Easy-peasy! Just one way to serve the parish!

Please fill out a stewardship form and check Baking under Hospitality or whatever you are interested in trying. You can try a service and let us know if it doesn't work with you.

Footnotes for Adjacent Article

PART THREE: LIFE IN CHRIST (continued)

48 Cf. Rom 2:14-16. **49** Cf. Rom 1:32. **50** John Henry Cardinal Newman, "Letter to the Duke of Norfolk," V, in *Certain Difficulties felt by Anglicans in Catholic Teaching II* (London: Longmans Green, 1885), 248. **51** St. Augustine, In ep Jo. 8, 9: PL 35, 2041. **52** 1 Jn 3:19-20. **53** DH 3 # 2.

Christian Formation



All are invited to share a simple meal of soup followed by the Stations of

the Cross Fridays this Lent, as we embark on our Lenten journey together in prayer and fellowship. Soup, bread, salad and drinks will be provided by a different St. John's ministry each Friday. The March 15th Soup Supper will be sponsored by GIFT families, and the 6th and 7th graders will be asked to serve. Soup is served at 6PM followed by Stations of the Cross at 7PM.



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!



This year we will be accepting cash donation, that are equivalent to a family meal. These cash donations will be used to support families in need in our community and support St. John Neumann Social Ministry. Prayerfully consider finically helping or donating your time.

Parish News

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN FOR LENT?

Grab a book – now you do!

If you don't want to do a small group you can still use the book LIVE LENT on your own journey through Lent. Pick it up in the narthex and leave \$10 for the book. There are short daily reflections to guide you through Lent.

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 after the Stations.

The following is a list of who will be hosting each week:

- Mar 8 Pastoral Council
- Mar 15 Religious Ed
- Mar 22 50 Plus/Small Groups
- Mar 29 50 Plus
- Apr 5 Small Groups
- Apr 12 Social Ministry

We could use a few more people to help. Contact the office for whatever Friday you can help.

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.



A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO FASTING!

Lenten fasts have a tendency to be oriented toward things like giving up food or television. But there are many other creative ways we can welcome Jesus' healing touch this Lent. Below are some suggestions you may want to consider.

Fast from anger and hatred. Give your family an extra dose of love each day.

Fast from judging others. Before making judgments, recall how Jesus overlooks our faults.

Fast from discouragement. Hold on to Jesus' promise that he has a perfect plan for your life (Jer. 29:11).

Fast from complaining. When you find yourself about to complain, close your eyes and recall some of the little moments of joy Jesus has given you.

Fast from resentment or bitterness. Work on forgiving those who may have hurt you.

Fast from spending too much money. Try to reduce your spending by ten percent and give these savings to the poor.

May the Lord "who began a good work in you bring it to completion" (Philippians 1:6). Happy Lent!

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.



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.

POPE FRANCIS: 10 OF HIS BEST TIPS FOR LENT

- 1. Get rid of the lazy addiction to evil:** "[Lent] is a 'powerful' season, a turning point that can foster change and conversion in each of us. We all need to improve, to change for the better. Lent helps us and thus we leave behind old habits and the lazy addiction to the evil that deceives and ensnares us."
- 2. Do something that hurts:** "Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt."
- 3. Don't remain indifferent:** "Indifference to our neighbor and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience. God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation."
- 4. Pray: Make our hearts like yours!:** "During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: '*Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum*': *Make our hearts like yours* (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference."
- 5. Take part in the sacraments:** "Lent is a favorable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ."
- 6. Prayer:** "In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could harden our hearts, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of God's boundless love, to taste his tenderness. Lent is a time of prayer, of more intense prayer, more prolonged, more assiduous, more able to take on the needs of the brethren; intercessory prayer, to intercede before God for the many situations of poverty and suffering."
- 7. Fasting:** "We must be careful not to practice a formal fast, or one which in truth 'satisfies' us because it makes us feel good about ourselves. Fasting makes sense if it questions our security, and if it also leads to some benefit for others, if it helps us to cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bends down to his brother in need and takes care of him."
- 8. Almsgiving:** "Today gratuitousness is often not part of daily life where everything is bought and sold. Everything is calculated and measured. Almsgiving helps us to experience giving freely, which leads to freedom from the obsession of possessing, from the fear of losing what we have, from the sadness of one who does not wish to share his wealth with others."
- 9. Help the Poor:** "In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing."
- 10. Evangelize:** "The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness."

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 10, 2019

"I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me."

(Deuteronomy 26:10)

This line from the Old Testament offers two challenges. First, do you give to God from your "first fruits", the best that you have to offer, or do you give from what is leftover? Second, do you recognize that everything you have has been given to you by God? Ask God for a grateful and generous heart, every day, in all circumstances.

CONGRATULATIONS

GALLIONE FAMILY



On Sunday, March 3 Father Rick celebrated his first baptism here at St. John's. Father Rick baptized Alexander Jeffrey Gallione into our faith. Parents, Jeanne and Jim and Alexander's sister Angelina Jean (AJ) celebrated with their entire family.

POINSETTIAS FOR THE TAKING

The poinsettia plants from Christmas are still in beautiful condition. If you would like to take one home they are in the kitchen. Help yourself.



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.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Margaret Alligood
 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
 David Fabiano
 Dawn Farley
 Cindy Feighan
 Emma Finnegan
 Bob Gardner
 Debbie Gregorakis
 Joseph Gruszczynski
 Liz Harmon
 Fred Holub
 Stephanie Illetscho
 Michael Kucharski
 Arthur Lanteri
 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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT: "Call the Midwife"

. . . [Jesus] was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. **Luke 4: 1-13**

Call the Midwife is the acclaimed PBS series about a community of Anglican nuns and the young nurses who work with them in serving the working poor in post-war London.

In a recent episode, a young nun, Sister Winifred, is torn between her assignment working as a midwife in London and her desire to work with young children. Her sisters caution her that they all must obediently go where their superiors assign them, but Sister Winifred passionately argues that there is a difference between "going where we are called by God and doing what we are told by human beings."

Sister Winifred apologizes for the "quarrel" she has agitated among the sisters — but Sister Mildred, from the wisdom of her experience, points to the real nature of the sisters' "quarrel."

"The quarrel is not between ourselves. It is within us. The quarrel is between one's own desires and that which is demanded. The quarrel is between the body and its longings, the soul and its terrors, and the mind yearning to be free. The quarrel defines us. It drives us forward, upwards, to our knees in prayer. You must embrace the quarrel. The quarrel will lead us to the answer. [The quarrel] is everything we are."

Every Lent calls us to take up that same "quarrel": determining what God is calling us to do against expectations of the world, realizing the meaning and purpose of these lives God has breathed into us when we are overwhelmed with the responsibilities of family and profession. This Lenten spring is a time for taking up our life-long "quarrel" between cynicism and hope, between our self-centered wants and the common good, between the "dust" of worldly things and the permanence of the kingdom of God.

2019 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Help Build a Civilization of Love

By now you have received a letter from Bishop Checchio inviting your participation in the 2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The diocesan ministries supported by the Appeal directly impact many of the parishioners here in St. John Neumann. Your gift provides formation opportunities for our catechists, youth and young adults. Among other important ministries, your sacrificial gift supports our renewed efforts in Evangelization & Communication.

If you have yet to make your pledge to this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal, you will have the opportunity to do so next weekend, March 16/17, which has been designated as **Bishop's Annual Appeal In-Pew Weekend**. Please prayerfully consider a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal to help our parish reach its goal. If we can exceed our goal, 50% of the amount collected over goal will be returned to us in the form of a parish rebate. Just as important as our financial goal is our goal of reaching **100% participation**. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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.

Parish and Community News

“THE SPIRIT LED JESUS THROUGH THE POTHOLES . . . ”

For most of us, Lent comes during the last gasp of winter. Our Lenten desert is more cold mud than sand; we make our wilderness trek across broken asphalt and potholes — lots of pot holes.

In a Lenten reflection, Prof. Katharine Harmon of Marian University in Indianapolis suggests that, the damage to front-alignments notwithstanding, potholes might be a fitting image for the Lenten journey:

Potholes demand us to snap to attention, to focus on the road. This season of Lent calls us to put aside the distractions of our myriad of screens and devices, the constant negative news cycles and our everyday dramas and crises in order to pay attention to what is meaningful and purposeful in our lives.

Potholes warn us of the traps that can tear us (and our vehicles) apart. Lent challenges us to change directions, to “turn away” from the rutted road of selfishness and fear and toward the level, if steeper, road of Gospel mercy and justice.

Potholes make us aware of our need for help from one another. How many of us have carefully followed the car in front of us, a driver who clearly knows how to negotiate these torn-up streets? We learn from those who have gone before us — and from the wisdom gained from our own journey, we can be a source of hope and direction to others.

Potholes challenge us to make the way easier for others. Like the good citizen who drops a construction cone over a hole in the road on his neighborhood, like the always reliable friend who offers a ride when our car has lost an encounter with a chasm-like pothole, Lent calls us to embrace the example of Jesus’ servanthood, making the kingdom of God of generosity and peace a reality in our desert of potholes.

In our Lenten journey this year, may we be attuned to the signs that challenge our way of doing things, our perspective as we make the life-changing decisions we all face, our vision of God in our midst. Let this Lent be a season for making every road straight and every valley (and pothole) of our life’s desert level (and filled) for the grace and peace of the Risen One to enter our homes and hearts.



You see the bulletin board — you can be part of it. If you did not get a chance to put what you are doing for Lent on the board on Ash Wednesday — you still can 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!



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



In the middle of a long-winded sermon, a small child was overheard asking his mother in a whisper that was heard for pews around: “Mommy, are you sure this is the only way we can get to heaven?”

“Dad,” a little boy asked, “Did you go to Sunday school every week?”

“I sure did, son,” his father replied.

“I’ll bet it won’t do me any good, either,” the boy said.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

March 3, 2019

80 Donors Weekly	\$4,944.00
44 Yellow Brick Road	\$1,286.00
1 Snow/Heat	\$50.00
1 Catholic Spirit	\$5.00

March 4, 2018

55 Donors Weekly	\$3,469.00
28 Yellow Brick Road	\$777.00
2 Snow/Heat	\$45.00
2 Develop. of Peoples	\$23.00



STORE CARDS

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

Thanks to the **11** families who purchased **\$2,030.00** in grocery & store cards for last week, the stores gave us a profit of **\$107.78**.



Don’t forget to use our Amazon Link

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

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

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

Store Cards

March 9 and 10

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

March 16 and 17

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

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of March 10	M. Cangelosi
Week of March 17	B. Sobey

Church Center Cleaning

March 14	Team E
March 21	Team F

Counting

March 11	Malone / Kosakowski
March 18	Cangelosi / McCabe

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

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Dean W. Sulpy, Manager

NJ Lic. No. 4737

P.O. Box 294, 15 Academy St., Califon, NJ

www.coughlinfuneralhome.com 908-832-2414

John F Rimmel

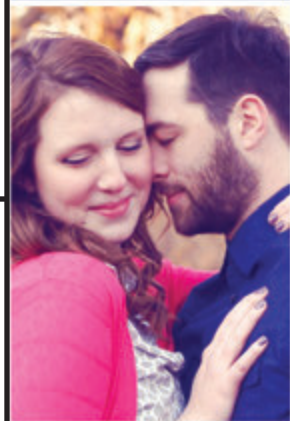
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