

# The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition

www.ccsjn.org / sjn@ccsjn.org

December 15, 2019

Volume 37 Number 48



## 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

#### **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

#### **Office Hours**

Mon.-Thurs.....9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.  
Friday.....9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

#### **Worship at Church Center:**

Saturday Vigil Mass..... 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday ..... 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday ..... 10:30 a.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 a.m.

#### **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**

Phyllis Baker ..... pbaker@ccsjn.org  
Mauricia Nacamuli ..... mnacamuli@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, December 17

7:00 a.m. No Intention

### Wednesday, December 18

8:00 a.m. Alfred P. Carney, req.  
Marion and Kay Dabrowski

### Thursday, December 19

7:00 a.m. No Intention

### Friday, December 20

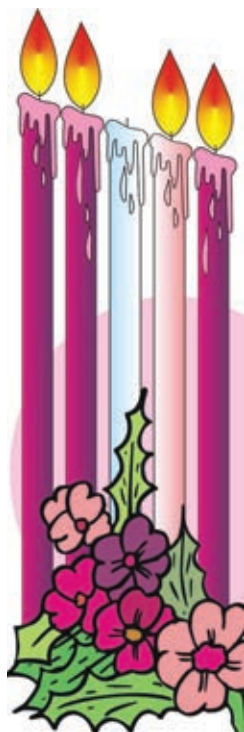
8:00 a.m. James Doyle, req.  
Chris Doyle and Family

### Saturday, December 21

5:30 p.m. Nancy Kirk, req.  
Joann Gardner

### Sunday, December 22

8:00 a.m. Frank Felitti, req.  
Diane Lehnert  
10:30 a.m. People of the Parish



## Parish Calendar

### Sunday, December 15 - Third Sunday of Advent / Christmas Flower Offering

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
8:45 a.m. Bell Choir Practice (Church Center)  
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
11:30 a.m. Visit with Santa (Narthex)  
12:00 p.m. GIFT Program (Church and Office Centers)

### Monday, December 16 - Advent Weekday

6:00 p.m. GIFT Program (Church and Office Centers)  
7:30 p.m. Fund Raising Meeting (Office Center Kitchen)

### Tuesday, December 17 - Late Advent Weekday

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
6:00 p.m. Christmas Decorating Party (Church Center)

### Wednesday, December 18 - Late Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
7:00 p.m. Community Reconciliation followed by Individual Confessions (Church Center/Reconciliation Room)  
7:30 p.m. Book Club (Seton Room)

### Thursday, December 19 - Late Advent Weekday

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
12:30 p.m. Staff Luncheon (Away)  
3:30 p.m. 50 Plus Planning Meeting (Seton Room)  
5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)  
7:00 p.m. How to Listen to God in Prayer Life (Church Ctr)

### Friday, December 20 - Late Advent Weekday

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

### Saturday, December 21 - Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

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

### Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent / Retirement Fund for Religious

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
8:45 a.m. Bell Choir Practice (Church Center)  
10:30 a.m. Mass - Welcome Mass (Church Center)  
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)

## Mass Schedule - December 21/22/24/25

Saturday	5:30 p.m.	
Celebrant .....	Fr. Rusk	
Reader .....	L. Caprio	
Altar Server .....	Klacik Family	
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	M. Connolly	
.....	J. Oelkers, L. Garcia	
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	
Celebrant .....	Fr. Rusk	
Reader .....	C. Bitters	
Altar Server .....	Patterson Family	
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	S. Janks	
.....	D. Sima, J. Sima	
Sunday	10:30 a.m.	
Celebrant .....	Fr. Rusk	
Reader .....	M. D'Avella	
Altar Server .....	D'Avella Family	
Music Eucharistic Minister .....	D. Lance	
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	D. Kelemen, B. Sobey	
.....	J. DeVito, S. Pojedinec, R. Pojedinec	
Tuesday	Christmas Eve	4:30 p.m.
Celebrant .....	Fr. Rusk	
Reader .....	A. DeStefano	
Altar Server .....	Needed	
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	J. Eacovalle, M. Connolly	
.....	J. Oelkers, 7 Needed	
Tuesday	Christmas Eve	7:30 p.m.
Celebrant .....	Fr. Rusk	
Reader .....	D. Geerinck	
Altar Server .....	Geerinck Family	
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	D. Geerinck, S. Janks	
.....	4 Needed	
Wednesday	Christmas Day	10:30 a.m.
Celebrant .....	Fr. Rusk	
Reader .....	Needed	
Altar Server .....	Needed	
Music Eucharistic Minister .....	Needed	
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	P. Baker, D. Kelemen	
.....	D. Lehnert, G. Battell, B. Gates	



*Santa Claus is coming to St. John's  
This Sunday, December 15th  
Following the 10:30 Mass (bring your cameras)*



### Remembered at Mass

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: **Marie Costa, Anna Varner, Brittany Csik.**

**Deceased:** Marie Costa, friend of Silakowski family, Anna Varner, friend of Liz Harmon and Brittany Csik, friend of the Janks Family. 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.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: "A Christmas Carol"

"Go and tell what John what you hear and see . . ."

Matthew 11: 2-11

It has been called the second greatest Christmas story of all time: Charles Dickens' **A Christmas Carol**.

Most of us know the story. Ebenezer Scrooge is the miserly merchant who despises Christmas as a useless "humbug." He resents the good cheer and generosity of heart that the holiday engenders. "A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-fifth of December," he sneers.

On Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his old business partner, Jacob Marley. Marley tells Scrooge that he will be visited by three spirits. The first, the Spirit of Christmas past, takes the old miser back to his boyhood home, where he sees his beloved sister Fan, the sole love and joy in their strict, austere household. He returns to the counting house where he apprenticed under old Fezziwig, who treated Scrooge with kindness and respect. And he painfully relives the end of his relationship with Belle, the love of his life, who breaks her engagement with Scrooge because, she says, his love for her has been replaced by a "new idol . . . Gain."

Scrooge's second visitor, the Spirit of Christmas Present, makes Scrooge see the realities that his avarice and greed have made him blind to: a nephew and family who care about Scrooge despite his contempt; the joy and kindness of the Cratchits and the family of Scrooge's ill-treated and poorly-paid clerk. Scrooge is also forced to confront the suffering endured by society's most vulnerable and helpless because of greed — *his* greed.

And the long night of visions end with Scrooge realizing the sad, dark legacy he will leave behind. Abandoned by the Spirit of Christmas to Yet to Come at his own grave, Scrooge cries to heaven: "Are these the shadows of the things that Will be, or are they shadows of the things that May be, only?"

As Christmas morning dawns, Scrooge no longer sees in shadows; he no longer finds comfort in darkness; he no longer dismisses Christmas as a "humbug."

**Ebenezer Scrooge is transported to the "desert" of his heart where the three Spirits prophetically open his eyes to the love he has rejected, the mercy he has withheld, the good will he has spurned. This Advent season call us to the wilderness of our own hearts to see the love we take for granted, the love we fail to see, the love that remains despite ourselves. John's call to transform our lives in the justice and mercy of God certainly resonates in our broken hearts and despairing spirits — but are we willing to take on the hard work of converting and re-creating those hearts? May we be "visited" by the Spirit of Christmas in the days ahead, opening our eyes and hearts to see in the light of the Child of Bethlehem what we want our lives to be for and about and, by God's grace, continue that work of re-creation in every season of our lives.**



## EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE IN RECONCILIATION

Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Advent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us. **Please join us for a Community Reconciliation Service at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.** This communal service is an opportunity to join our sisters and brothers in asking for forgiveness and healing during this important time of the year. As we begin the new liturgical year in the Church, we invite all to begin anew with souls nourished from the gifts of divine mercy and forgiveness God has for everyone.



## HOW TO LISTEN TO GOD IN OUR PRAYER LIFE

December 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us Thursday, December 19th at 7:00 p.m. to be more open to hear God in prayer. Sign up in the Narthex.

## PASTOR'S CORNER

We continue our prayer "Come Lord Jesus." In this third week let us enter into the grace of intercession for all of our family members, friends, our Parish, and the whole world. May every heart come to know and experience Christ living in us through faith. The world is in darkness but Christ is the light of the world. Soon, on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> the days will start getting brighter and brighter. May Christ in us grow brighter and brighter though our acts of faith, hope, and love!

Advent Blessings,  
Fr. Rick

## COME ENJOY THE BELLS!



The Bells will be played at the 7:30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24

## 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2019

**"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." (James 5:8)**

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

## AMAZON LINK QR CODE

This QR Code will bring you directly to the

St. John Neumann link

On the Amazon Website.

By doing this you will be contributing to

St. John's

Thank You for your support





## **CHRISTMAS DECORATING PARTY**

**This Tuesday, Dec. 17th - 6pm**



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



**These Wise Men are starting their journey!**  
**Are you on your journey to Christ?**

## **IN THE DARKNESS, COMES THE LIGHT WINTER SOLSTICE CHRISTMAS MEDITATION**

**Saturday, December 21 - 6:30pm**



Anyone want to brave the cold darkness Saturday, December 21? Join us to gather outdoors to pause, meditate, and pray. After the Saturday evening Mass, weather permitting, we will take an invigorating walk in the labyrinth, and then enjoy hot cider while we experience a bonfire meditation. Dress for warmth and appropriate footwear! And please sign up in the narthex or email [fkenny@ccsjn.org](mailto:fkenny@ccsjn.org) so we can accommodate the number of those participating.



## **RECONCILIATION CELEBRATION**

On Saturday, December 7, 2019, 10 of our children in the First Eucharist Program celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation focused on embracing God's amazing sacrifice and love for us through reconciliation and forgiveness. As the children continue to prepare for their First Holy Communion, please keep them and their families in your prayers.



## **ABOUT OUR ADVENT QUILT**

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

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

How can the colors and pattern be interpreted? The shades from dark to light

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

## **OPLATEK – THE CHRISTMAS WAFER**

**Start your own Family Tradition**



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

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

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

**Christmas Season & New Year's**  
**Mass Schedule**  
**2019-2020**

**Visit with Santa**

Sunday, December 15 ..... 11:30 a.m.

**Christmas Decorating Party**

Tuesday, December 17 ..... 6:00 p.m.

**Community Reconciliation followed by Individual Confessions**

Wednesday, December 18 ..... 7:00 p.m.

**Weekend Masses / 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Saturday, December 21 ..... 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 22 ..... 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 22 ..... 10:30 a.m.

**Christmas Eve Masses**

Tuesday, December 24 ..... 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24 (with Bell Choir) ..... 7:30 p.m.

**Christmas Day Mass**

Wednesday, December 25 ..... 10:30 a.m.

**Weekend Masses**

Saturday, December 28 ..... 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 29 ..... 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 29 ..... 10:30 a.m.

**Solemnity of Mary - New Year's Day Masses**

Wednesday, January 1 ..... 10:30 a.m.



**ST. JOHN'S MEMORIAL CONCERT**

The first St. John's Memorial Concert held on Sunday afternoon November 24th was beautiful. Those that attended the concert were blessed with wonderful songs by our talented Music Ministry. We would like to thank our musicians and singers, **Arminda Barbone, Fran Barbone, Maggie Baumann, Gerry Brisson, Jen Evanko, Jack Horan, Jim King, Kasia Kowalewski, Krys Kowalewski, and Annette Schettino.** Thanks also to **Delia Hunt** who entertained us with her wonderful dance. The concert was dedicated to those we lost over the years. We thank the participants for sharing their talents. They were an inspiration to us all. It was truly an exceptional afternoon in honor of our loved ones who have passed. Thank you again to our gifted Music Ministry and we look forward to next November's Concert.

**DIOCESAN CONSECRATION OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Checchio consecrated our Diocese of Metuchen to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Our Lady is the patron saint of the Americas and was catalyst for the greatest mass conversion to the Catholic faith ever. Bishop Checchio has consecrated the diocese to a spark a renewal of evangelizaion here in our diocese. If you are interested in finding out more about Our Lady of Guadalupe you can find the movie, "Guadalupe, The Miracle and the Message" on Amazon prime.

**Prayer Ministry**



**COME AND WORSHIP**

Christmas should surprise us, just as it did the Magi. It should change us, just as Zechariah's encounter changed him. And just as Mary rejoiced with Elizabeth, Christmas should fill us with joy.

Like all of them, you have been on an Advent journey these past few weeks. Christmas is quickly approaching. You might want to pause and reflect on how God has been present to you during Advent. Has he strengthened your faith as you sat before him in silence? Has he showed you his faithfulness as you have read the Advent Scriptures? Has he moved your heart to worship him more reverently in prayer and during Mass? If you're not sure, don't worry. It's never too late to seek him anew.

So search for Jesus along with the Magi. He wants you to find him on your journey of faith. He waits for you at Mass and in Confession, and in prayer and Scripture, and even in your mundane acts of cooking and cleaning and wrapping, just as he was present while Mary served Elizabeth. Let every part of your journey move you to worship Jesus like the Magi. Come, let us adore him.

***"Lord, help me slow down during this special season."***

*If you enjoyed this reflection pick up a copy of the Word among us from the Narthex.*



# Parish & Diocesan News

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carolyn Anderson  
Dana Colabella  
Steven Geist  
Tulio Hargain  
Jay Heyman  
Madi Kinney  
Bonnie Lieberwirth  
Samantha Livoti  
Tom Malley  
Declan Maloney  
Karen Moore  
Florence Nawrocki  
John Pfeufer  
Ali Redling  
Earl & Denise Roberts  
Michael Rubright  
Tracy Schauer  
Edward E. Sharpe  
Gayle Stinson  
Tom Wiles  
Joey Zieba

## MILITARY PERSONNEL

### ***Please remember in your prayers:***

Captain Baumann, Katherine, US Army  
Spec. Bitters, Christian, US Army  
Cavallo, Chris, USMC  
2LT, Michael Tyler D'Avella, US Air Force  
SSO, Andrew Fabiano, US Navy Reserve  
2LT, Molly Ferguson, US Air Force  
2LT, Geerinck, Josh, US Air Force  
Spec. Jablonski, Jon Tyler, US Army  
Private, Linzer, Matthew, US Army  
Seaman, Linzer, Stephanie, US Navy  
SR O'Leary, Thomas, US Navy  
Lieutenant Simila, Nicole, US Navy  
Airman, Vardian, Justin, US Air Force  
Jr. Lieutenant, Webster, Justine, US Navy

## OUT OF TOUCH?

Do you get emails from St. John Neumann? Our latest email was on Wednesday, December 11th - Parish Updates. If you don't get our periodic emails it means we do not have your email in our parish data base! Please send us an email to [sjn@ccsjn.org](mailto:sjn@ccsjn.org) and help us update our records!

## STEWARDSHIP RESPONSES

### ***Received 41 out of 305 Families***

Thank you for your support of your parish! We are here to share God's Word, minister to those in need spiritually and materially, and we are able to do so only with your financial support! Please complete a commitment card for your intended support for 2020.

## RESTORING THE DESERT, POST ISIS . . .

Five years ago, Christian families were driven from their homes in northern Iraq by ISIS. Homes, businesses, schools and churches were destroyed during the occupation. Now that ISIS has been driven out (at least, for the time being), Christian families are returning to face the long, hard road of rebuilding their vandalized, damaged homes and villages.

But amid the devastation, there are lights of hope.

In the small village of Qaraqosh, the Brothers of Jesus the Redeemer have opened a small house. The brothers see their work as one of presence and hospitality. The Muslim community wants their Christian neighbors to return; the brothers see their mission as trying to make it possible for Christians to rebuild their homes and re-establish their lives. The brothers teach English, math and computer science in an afternoon program to help Christian and Muslim students get their educations derailed by the conflict back on track. They organized a dinner to mark the end of the Muslim fasting season of Ramadan at which 400 people — Christians and Muslims — came together to celebrate their neighbors' return and the restoring of peace and good will in the village.

During the occupation of Nineveh, the Dominican Sisters of Saint Catherine created an ad hoc Catholic school system for refugee children in Erbil, a region safe from ISIS. Now, as Christians return, the sisters are re-establishing schools in Nineveh, as well as maintaining kindergartens and schools to serve refugees who are unable or unwilling to return to their homes. Many of the children the sisters work with are traumatized from the loss of their homes and the grueling flight from Mosul and the villages around Nineveh. Their work is one of healing as well as education. The Dominicans welcome children of all faiths, turning away no one.

Uncertainty about the future remains the "biggest and worst challenge" Christian families are facing, one Dominican sister says. "Personally, I believe that living in the Middle East is really beyond our [individual] powers and our abilities. To keep the cross in the Middle East, I think, is not just our dream; it must be the dream of God as well."

**In this Advent season, Christ comes as the light of God that illuminates our vision in new ways, enabling us to see God's grace and compassion in one another. All three readings on this Advent Sunday begin with lifeless, depressing pictures that are transformed into life-giving and enriching images: from death to life, from barrenness to harvest, from illness to wholeness. The Brothers of Jesus and the Dominican Sisters are reflections of that light of hope and re-creation. We are all called to reflect that light, revealing God's presence in the darkest times, enabling miracles of resurrection to take place here and now.**



## PARISH WELCOME TWO NEW FAMILIES

We extend a welcome to two new parish families. The Montgomery's, Randy and Anna and their twin daughters, Alexis and Taylor and son Matthew and the Vasquez family, Alicia Chicaiza and Edison, and their sons Michael and Mateo, have joined the parish. Take a look at the bulletin board and introduce yourself when you see them.



## SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



A father took his five year old son to several baseball games where "The Star Spangled Banner" was sung before the start of the game. Then the father and son attended a church on Sunday shortly before Independence Day. The congregation sang "The Star Spangled Banner"; and after everyone sat down, the boy suddenly yelled out: "Play ball!"



## FAITH

**F**oundation is a very important aspect in our life. A good foundation in our home, our relationships with friends and family and even a LEGO house provides a solid footing to build on. Solid structures will grow on a good basis. This is the same with our relationship with God, our home and the church. Therefore, it is important to tender and foster our foundations and not neglect or let them crumble.

**A**ssurance that you are always welcome and you would not be turned away. A place where you can exercise your religion without persecution or fear and where a caring community surrounds you. There have been many people in history who would go so far as to build monuments just to have a place to worship. We have the privilege to have a place where we can come to have an intimate dialogue with God and find peace and solace at church. You can go into a random church in any city and just admire the beautiful architecture or light a candle for your love ones.

**I**llumination into oneself comes through experience and compassion. When you realize there are others in greater despair than you, when you recognize that there is something greater than yourself, and when you discover that you are not alone. Sharing your faith and talents with others will bring light into your life and illuminate the good you do. Through community we are able to learn and grow and strive for betterment.

**T**eachings of Jesus can come through anyone, strangers or friends, neighbors or coworkers. These teachings come through parents by being good role models for their children, by accompanying them on their religious journey. Show your children, by example, that there can be a balance between the spiritual and commercial pieces of not only this Holiday Season but in your everyday life with your physical and financial support of the parish throughout the year.

**H**ope is one of the most precious abilities of mankind. Without hope and help we might not be able to withstand all the difficult obstacles life puts in front of us. We can find hope in our beliefs, in the church and in the church community.

I can't imagine not having a place to worship together with my family and friends. This is why I choose to spend my Time, Talent and Treasure with our church, to foster this place with the hope that others will do the same. By doing this we will continue to have a beautiful place, our church, today and for the future. My hope is my children will carry on through our example and witness to stewardship.

Have a very Merry Christmas  
(from an anonymous parishioner)

### MEN'S CORNERSTONE ANNUAL EVENT

**FRIDAY Night & Saturday - January 24th and 25th**

To be held at Immaculate Conception parish Hall in Annandale. Full details and More Info: <https://www.wiccannandale.org/mens-cornerstone> or call 908-287-2822. Brochures and Registration info available in the Narthex.

### LETTER TO A SUFFERING CHURCH

If you are troubled with the crisis in the church, you are welcome to pick up Bishop Robert Barron's book *Letter to a Suffering Church* from the Narthex. After reading it you can return it to the Narthex or pass along to someone who may benefit from it. Please contact the office if you want to discuss 832-2513 or [fkennedy@ccsjn.org](mailto:fkennedy@ccsjn.org). We can organize a discussion session with anyone who is interested.

### WEEKLY COLLECTION

**December 8, 2019**

70 Donors Weekly .....	\$6,041.00
5 Yellow Brick Road .....	\$95.00
24 Immaculate Conception....	\$416.00
1 Human Development.....	\$40.00
2 Thanksgiving .....	\$90.00

**December 9, 2018**

77 Donors Weekly .....	\$3,028.00
43 Retirement Fund.....	\$990.00
26 Immaculate Conception....	\$355.00
9 Yellow Brick Road .....	\$168.00



### VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

#### **Office Angels**

Wed., December 18..... L. Caprio  
Wed., January 8 .....J. Santoro

#### **Store Cards**

##### **December 14/15**

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

##### **December 21/22**

5:30 p.m..... C. Cresenti  
8:00 a.m..... L. Stanski  
10:30 a.m..... H. Quigley

#### **Church Center Plant Watering**

Week of Dec. 22 ..... B. Sobey  
Week of Dec. 29 ..... M. Proano

#### **Church Center Cleaning**

December 19 ..... Team C  
December 26 ..... Team D

#### **Counting**

Dec. 16..... Malone/McCabe  
Dec. 23..... Kucharski/Cangelosi



### HOW TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE

If you were sexually abused by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or you know of someone who was, you are encouraged to report that abuse to law enforcement and/or by contacting the Diocesan Response Officer at (908) 930-4558 (24 hours/7 days a week). For more information on how to report abuse, visit our diocesan website: <https://diometuchen.org/report-a-suspected-abuse>.



**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"**

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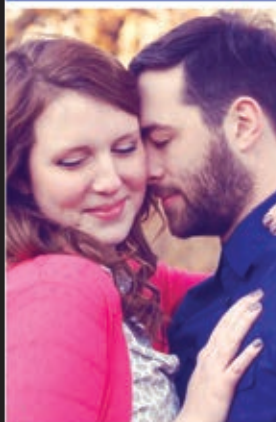
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