

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition

www.ccsjn.org / sjn@ccsjn.org

February 23, 2020

Volume 38 Number 8



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

Emailfrrick@ccsjn.org

Sharon Janks..... Pastoral Administrator

Email sjanks@ccsjn.org

France Kennedy Pastoral Associate

Emailfkennedy@ccsjn.org

Susanne Erz, PhD Financial Administrator

Emailserz@ccsjn.org

Wayne Infusino..... Maintenance

Religious Education..... 908-832-2162

Phyllis Baker..... pbaker@ccsjn.org

Mauricia Nacamuli mnacamuli@ccsjn.org

Social Ministry 862-217-7457

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, February 25

7:00 a.m. Riva Adamski, req.
Tom and Cathy Bennett
Mary E. Byrne, req.
Brisson Family

Wednesday, February 26

7:00 a.m. No Intention
7:00 p.m. Diane Thomas, req.
Tim Barrow

Thursday, February 27

7:00 a.m. No Intention

Friday, February 28

8:00 a.m. No Intention

Saturday, February 29

5:30 p.m. Judith Strandberg, req.
Sharon and Alan Janks

Sunday, March 1

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



**COME AND HEAR
THE BELLS**
*This Sunday, Feb. 23rd
At the 10:30 a.m. Mass*

Parish Calendar

Sunday, February 23 - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time / Catholic Press Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass - Welcome (Church Center)
8:45 a.m. Bell Choir Practice (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass with Bells-Kelemen Baptism (Church Center)
10:30 p.m. Children's Liturgy of The Word (Narthex)
12:15 p.m. Game Afternoon (Narthex)

Monday, February 24 - Weekday

7:00 p.m. Small Group (Drexel Room)
7:00 p.m. Fund Raising Meeting (Office Center Kitchen)
7:30 p.m. Children's Liturgy Meeting (Seton Room)

Tuesday, February 25 - Weekday

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

Wednesday, February 26 - Ash Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Mass and Ashes (Church Center)
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)
7:30 p.m. Small Group (Upper Room)

Thursday, February 27 - Lenten Weekday

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

Mass Schedule - February 29 & March 1

Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	7:00 a.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Rusk	
Reader	Needed	
Ministers of the Eucharist	1 Needed	
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Rusk	
Reader	Needed	
Ministers of the Eucharist	Bob Sobey, 2 Needed	
Saturday		5:30 p.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Rusk	
Reader	L. Caprio	
Altar Server	Geerinck Family	
Ministers of the Eucharist	L. Garcia	
	M. Connolly, P. Fabiano	
Sunday		8:00 a.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Rusk	
Reader	J. Murray	
Altar Server	Patterson Family	
Ministers of the Eucharist	D. Lehnert	
	D. Kelemen, S. Janks	
Sunday		10:30 a.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Rusk	
Reader	G. Porto	
Altar Server	Alligood Family	
Music Eucharistic Minister	R. Pojedinec	
Ministers of the Eucharist	B. Sobey, D. Royal	
	P. Royal, S. Carew, D. Lance	

Friday, February 28 - Lenten Weekday


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

Saturday, Feb. 29 - Stewardship Wknd / Lenten Weekday

7:00 p.m. Men's Spirituality Breakfast (Office Center)
3:30 p.m. 1st Eucharist - Session 2 (Church Center)
5:30 p.m. 1st Eucharist Parent Meeting (Seton Room)
5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

Sun., March 1 - First Sunday of Lent / Stewardship Wknd Building and Grounds maintenance Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
8:45 a.m. Bell Choir Practice (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
12:00 p.m. GIFT Program (Office and Church Center)



Remembered at Mass

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: **Warren Evanko.**

Deceased: **Warren Evanko**, husband of Jen Evanko and father of Emily, Colin and Jack. May he 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.

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: “Little Women”

“ . . . love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father . . . ”

Matthew 5: 38-48

. . . [Jesus] was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun and his clothes became dazzling white.

Matthew 17: 1-9

One of the year’s most acclaimed films is director Greta Gerwig’s adaptation of Louisa May Alcott’s novel **Little Women**.

It’s the story of the four colorful and high-spirited March sisters, who live in Concord, Massachusetts, during and after the Civil War. While their father is away serving as a volunteer chaplain with Union forces, mother Marmee struggles to make ends meet — but Marmee always gives whatever the family has to anyone in need and instills such compassion and generosity in her daughters.

The four sisters differ in temperament and talent; each has her own hopes and dreams for the future. Meg is the responsible oldest sister yet loves the theatre and wants to be part of proper Concord society. Beth is the shy, thoughtful third-born, a talented pianist who adores her three sisters. Youngest Amy is the ambitious sister: a promising painter, Amy has been taken under the wing of their rich, imperious Aunt March, who instills in her youngest niece an understanding of the economic realities of marriage in the 19th century New England. Jo is the headstrong second eldest sister and the undisputed leader of the troupe, a writer who seeks to make her way through life on her own terms — and does.

It’s not always harmonious in the March household. The four sisters argue and fight as all siblings do. There is a particularly ugly confrontation between Amy and Jo. Jo struggles with her anger at her sister. Her mother Marmee confides to her second daughter: “I am angry nearly every day of my life. I’ve learned to check the hasty words that rise to my lips, and when I feel that they mean to break out against my will, I just go away for a minute, and give myself a little shake for being so weak and wicked.”

The moment portrays a mother’s struggle with her righteous anger and society’s demands that such anger be suppressed.

The glory of Greta Gerwig’s adaptation is the film’s portrayal of the March sisters as fully fleshed-out, imperfect young women. They play and argue, they fight and forgive. The bond of love among the four is neither sentimental nor cynical. In times of tragedy and crisis, as perspectives and dreams change, as each makes the difficult passage from childhood to womanhood, the March sisters remain inseparable. Their hands and hearts are always open to each other, no matter how angry they may be with one another in a given moment.

We can readily see our own families — and ourselves — in these four daughters and sisters — and women.

The story of the March sisters models Jesus’ teachings on love in today’s Gospel. Jesus readily acknowledges that love — love that is and of God — is not easy. It’s demanding, often unreasonable and unfair. It means putting ourselves — and our disappointments and expectations — aside for the sake of the beloved. What is often most challenging about today’s Gospel is not loving our “enemies” but loving our annoying sister or bratty brother. It’s easy to “love” some nameless, demographic group we have little or nothing to do with; what’s hard is to “love” the people we live with and work with and go to school with. “To love our enemies” is not just to declare a cease-fire but to create and maintain an environment where reconciliation is always possible, where acceptance and welcome are assured — even within our families and households.

CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH

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

PASTOR’S CORNER

These weeks we begin the grace filled event in our Diocese of the Bishops Annual Appeal. This Appeal gives each of us the opportunity to bless and strengthen ministries in the Diocese of Metuchen. As I pointed out last weekend if you want your donation to go to a specific ministry just write that on the card. Also, do not forget to put your prayer intention on the card. The Bishop prays for all these intentions. Thank you very much for your continued generosity and support and I know God will not be outdone in blessing you and your family!

God Bless,
Fr. Rick

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 23, 2020

“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...”

MATTHEW 5:44

Love your enemies, easier said than done, no doubt. But, remember, the foundation of stewardship is prayer. When we are in close communication with God, it opens our heart and it turns our attention away from “me” and moves it towards God and others. It allows us to have a little more empathy for “our enemy”. When we pray for others, even “our enemies”, maybe it softens their hearts as well.

BAPTISM



Being Received in the Sacrament of Baptism

Isaac Robert Kelemen

Sunday, February 23, 2020

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann joins in celebration with parents, Kyle and Elizabeth, siblings; Caleb, Sophia, Piper and Rory and grandparents, Debby & Simon Kelemen.

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 26TH

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

Christian Formation / Social Ministry / Parish News



CRS Rice bowls are available in the Narthex for those families who do

not have a student in Religious Education but who would like to participate in the 2020 Catholic Relief Service fund drive.

NEW SOCIAL MINISTRY PHONE NUMBER

(862) 217-7457

Saint John Neumann Social Ministry now has their own phone number where you can leave messages and someone will get back to you.

GIVING TREE THANK YOU FROM LITTLE BROOK

The altar flowers this weekend represent a thank you from Little Brook Nursing Home to all of you at St. John's for the gifts from our giving tree. They are also very appreciative for Regina DeStefano who brings communion to the residents weekly.

VALENTINE DANCE THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Valentine Dinner Dance. We hope those who attended enjoyed the company, food and dancing. We appreciate your support which gave the parish approximately \$3000.

Without the help of these parishioners it wouldn't have been such a success. Lauren Alligood, Natalie, Phyllis Baker, Arminda Barbone, Tom Bennett, Victoria Brynildsen, Mary and Pete Cangelosi, Doug Compton, Mary Connolly, Regina DeStefano, Donna Geerinck, Anne Germino, Wayne Infusino, Sharon Janks, Meg Joy, France Kennedy, Emilia Kuhn, Shannon Lang, Walter Laskowski, Zach Lowary, Jim Murray, Summer Ona, Barbara Pannone, Karen Porto, Annette Schettino, Jenn Schimanski, Andrea Soltesz, Joe Stanski, Kathleen Swindler, Amelia Weldon, Emmett Weldon, Charlie Wellbrock, Oliver Wenger, Cade Zeolla. If we have forgotten anyone, please know that your help was greatly appreciated.

PASTORAL COUNCIL INVITATION

The Pastoral Council is a consultative body to the Pastor in developing and implementing the vision and mission of the parish. It currently has ten members, including Fr. Rick. Four parishioners are needed to replace those members that will complete their 3-year terms in May. If you would like to consider joining the Pastoral Council, please speak to one of the members who will be representing the pastoral council at the Stewardship Weekend coffees on February 29th and March 1st. Interested parishioners are also invited to attend the March 9th Pastoral Council meeting, held at 7:30 p.m. in the Office Center. For more information, contact Fr. Rick or any Pastoral Council member.

THINK SPRING!

THINK AUCTION DINNER DANCE!



We're looking for a few parishioners to join this year's team and serve as Auction Chair(s) and Sub-Chair Volunteers. See the sheets in the Narthex for specific tasks and descriptions, pick one that matches your interests. The streamlined Auction Dinner Dance format successfully pioneered last year makes planning the event even easier. Please consider stepping up even if you are new to helping with the Auction or are interested in trying out a new role this year! Also, mark your calendar for Saturday, June 6th and think about a warm evening outside wine tasting under the tent.

CATHOLIC HEART WORCAMP

DEADLINE EXTENDED

If you are interested in joining us at CHWC this summer you now have until March 31 to contact me. We are going to Saranac Lake, NY from June 21-26. You must be entering 9th grade in the Fall to attend. Please be in touch if you have any questions or if you are interested. Mary Connolly at mandmconnolly@gmail.com or 908-930-0784.

It's not what you give up.
It's who you become.



Learn more at
[DynamicCatholic.com/Amazing](https://dynamiccatholic.com/Amazing)


YOU'VE GOT 40 DAYS. WHO WILL YOU BECOME?

What can you do in forty days? Start a new prayer habit? Get more active in your daily life? Lent presents the perfect opportunity for you to take the next step toward the-best-version-of-yourself. A free daily Lenten video program (sent straight to your email)

Don't let it pass you by. Sign up. Watch videos.

<https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-lent-ever>

AMAZON LINK QR CODE

 This QR Code will bring you directly to the St. John's website ccsjn.org and click on the Amazon link. By doing this you will be contributing to St. John's Thank You for your support



STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND / FEBRUARY 29 & MARCH 1

Giving Your Best

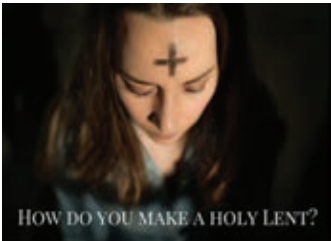
God gives us talents not to build ourselves up with pride, but so we will have something we value to share and give to others.

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 Talent Form at Mass!



APPROACHING LENT

If we treat Lent no different than other days, 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? It's 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?



Have you thought about your Lenten journey? What will you focus on in Lent? The Narthex bulletin board is open for you to share something you are doing this Lent. Join others sharing their plan to journey through Lenten to Easter Transformation.



WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE

You are Invited!

One Day Experience - Saturday, March 28, 2020

We begin at 8 am and end by 10 pm with a celebration following the 8:00 pm Mass. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served on campus Immaculate Conception Parish Hall

Prayer Ministry



WE ARE HUMAN

Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Mathew 5:48)

How could Jesus say such a thing? He knows we're human; he knows that we can never be perfect in the sense of never committing a sin. So how can we live out this commandment?

Fortunately, God has given us some models to follow; the saints. Because they were human, they were sinners, just like us. But they were "perfect" in God's eyes nonetheless. Their perfection rested not in their sinlessness but in their commitment to love God and their neighbor with all their hearts. It was their own experience of God's love that allowed them to follow the Lord wherever he led and to love other people with the love that came from God. And so they made it their aim to be as merciful and generous as possible. They strove to love their enemies just as faithfully as they loved their friends and to pray for those who persecuted them.

The point is, "perfection: isn't out of our reach. It is about loving God in a way that causes us to change our lives and do whatever he asks of us. It's about loving our neighbors – and even our enemies- with the love that God has for us.

"Saints in heaven, intercede for me so that I can love God and my neighbor as you did."

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

JOIN US STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

If you have any questions about the Stewardship opportunities available, parishioners will be there to talk to you after all Masses on

Saturday and Sunday

February 29th and March 1st

Parish & Diocesan News

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carolyn Anderson
Dana Colabella
Marie Damiano
Steven Geist
Tulio Hargain
Jay Heyman
Madi Kinney
Bonnie Lieberwirth
Samantha Livoti
Tom Malley
Declan Maloney
John Meyer
Catherine Mills
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

WELCOME



This weekend we welcome new families to the parish. Look for their photos on the bulletin board and sometime in the future introduce yourself to them and see if they have any questions you can answer about their new parish. Lisa Varlese attends the 8am Mass as does the Linda and Wayne McKay. Angie D'Armiento grew up at St. John's but Ryan Emmert and she are officially joining the parish as adults as they will be getting married here in April!

"PENANCE AT THE PEDAL . . ."

With Lent beginning this week, most of us, with the best of intentions, think about what we might give up during the coming season of prayer and penance. We consider the usual: giving up a favorite food or an activity we enjoy.

But would we consider giving up or curtailing a basic, necessary, everyday activity — like, say, driving?

A year ago, Kathleen Manning and her family decided to do just that: to drive as little as possible during Lent. It took the Manning family considerable planning to pull this off. Fortunately, Chicago has a city-wide transit system — it's just a matter of using it. Both Mom and Dad could take the train to work; their daughter rides a bus to school. At the end of the school day, Mom can plop their two-year-old in his stroller to meet big sister.

Manning, who teaches history at Loyola University in Chicago, writes that the family's "no driving" Lenten discipline got off to a rough start. Ash Wednesday was a cold, wet day. Running late, she drove to pick up her daughter rather than have her wait in the cold rain. And sacrificing driving required planning ahead, keeping everyone's different schedules in sync.

But there were pluses: limiting food purchases to what could be carried home on the bus, being able to stop at the park on the walk home from school, making new friends on the trains and bus rides.

Writing in **U.S. Catholic** Magazine [September 2019], Kathleen Manning notes that driving less was not just a matter of penance but of making a necessary change in lifestyle.

" . . . there is a challenge, albeit an implicit one, in 'ashes to ashes, dust to dust': How are we spending our brief time as not-dust? For me this has taken on a special urgency given the increasingly dire warnings about the ill effects of climate change and our vanishing ability to keep these affects at bay. When extreme droughts and catastrophic wildfires are turning parts of the world to ash, what do the ashes on my forehead call me to do?"

Kathleen Manning writes that "it is grievously naive to presume my actions make a difference in keeping an impending climate catastrophe at bay" but the Lenten season before us calls us to see our lives in need of change: a perspective that recognizes the fragility of our world; an understanding that all peoples and nations have a share of our good earth's bounty; a respect for the dignity of every man, woman and child as made in God's image. Lent is a call to *transfiguration*: to re-create our world in God's vision of justice, mercy and peace. Consider making Lent 2020 a season for changing and transforming some part of your life to reflect a more just, a more reconciling, a more compassionate approach to life: unplugging from the world to make a better connection with family; ceding control to enable others to realize their gifts and hopes; changing the everyday tasks we take for granted to be more responsible in the care of the environment and for one another. Make this Lent a season of such "transfiguring" change in your life and lifestyle.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



These actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services.

- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell'? Come early and listen to our choir practice.



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"

Parish & Diocesan News

LENTEN OBLIGATIONS

1. The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.
3. The obligation of fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. Fasting in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal and two smaller meals which together are not equal to a full meal, so as to experience hunger.
4. The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14.

Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat.

2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Stepping Forward in Faith: Grace in Action

Please watch your mailbox for a letter from Bishop Checchio coming to you this week announcing the 2020 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 the formation of seminarians and enhances the work of campus ministry through the Catholic Center at Rutgers University. 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.

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES CHURCH LENTEN RETREAT

Sunday, March 29th at 2:00 PM

Our Lady of Victories Church at 105 Route 519 in Baptistown is hosting a Lenten Retreat on Sunday, March 29th at 2PM. The afternoon will include the Rosary, Benediction, Adoration, opportunity for Reconciliation, hymn singing and Lenten Reflection by Ms. Fernanda Perrone, Curator and Archivist of Special Collections for Rutgers University. She will be speaking about the history of Contemplative Nuns of NJ with a Lenten theme. There will be refreshments afterwards too. All this and it won't even cost you a dime! The program is suitable for men, women, teens and tweens.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2020-2021

TUITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than **March 31, 2020**. Applications are available in English and Spanish.

Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.

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 kfenney@ccsjn.org. We can organize a discussion session with anyone who is interested.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 16, 2020

56 Weekly Donors	\$2,838.00
3 Bldg & Ground Maint	\$120.00
36 Snow & Heat.....	\$725.00
1 Initial Offering.....	\$25.00

February 17, 2019

48 Weekly Donors	\$3,054.00
1 Bldg & Ground Maint,	\$5.00
29 Snow & Heat	\$644.00



STORE CARDS

Thanks to the **14** families who purchased **\$2,030.00** in store cards, the stores gave us a profit of **\$105.21**.



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., March 4 J. Santoro
Wed., March 11 C. Behrens

Store Cards

February 22 / 23

5:30 p.m..... B. Cestone
8:00 a.m..... P. Nanna
10:30 a.m..... D. Royal

February 29 / March 1

5:30 p.m..... L. Livoti
8:00 a.m..... G. Battell
10:30 a.m..... S. Pojedinec

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of Feb. 23 M. Proano
Week of March 1 A. Soltesz

Church Center Cleaning

February 27 Team A
March 5 Team B

Counting

Feb. 24 Malone / McCabe
March 2 Cangelosi / Kosakowski

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>.

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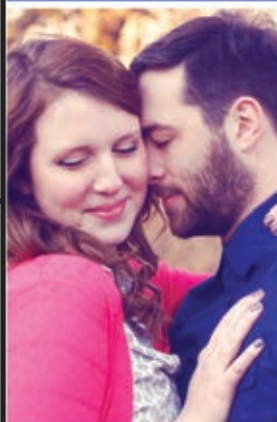
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