



Accept our gifts also, O Lord

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SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 6, 2008

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem.

MISSION STATEMENT

**Catholic Community of St. John Neumann
1998-1999**

FOUNDED on the teachings of Jesus Christ,
NOURISHED by the hospitality of the Californ 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.

THE WEEK THAT IS

Sunday, January 6 – Epiphany of the Lord/Paving Our Yellow Brick Road/National Migration Week

- 9:00 a.m. K-6 Catechesis (Valley View School)
- 10:30 a.m. Baptism – Evans (Church Center)
- 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

Monday, January 7 – St. Valentine of Passau

Tuesday, January 8 – Bl. Edward Waterson

- 9:30 a.m. Quilting (Office Center)
- 3:30 p.m. Historical Committee (Office Center)
- 7:00 p.m. Mass (Neumann Residence)
- 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Life (Neumann Residence)

Wednesday, January 9 – Ss. Julian & Basilissa

- 9:30 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence)
- 12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting (Office Center)
- 7:00 p.m. Budget Meeting (Office Center)
- 7:00 p.m. Fundraising Meeting (Office Center)

Thursday, January 10 – St. Domitian

- 7:00 p.m. Quilting (Office Center)
- 7:30 p.m. Music Ministry (Church Center)

Friday, January 11 – Ss. Tipasius & Salve

- 7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence)
- 5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)

Saturday, January 12 – Bl. Antoine Fournier

- 9:30 a.m. Saturday Catechesis (Church Center)

Sunday, January 13 – Baptism of the Lord/Together in Charity

- 9:00 a.m. K-6 Catechesis/Grade 1 Family Faith Day (Valley View)
- 9:00 a.m. CPI Parent/Candidate Meeting (Valley View)
- 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

MASS SCHEDULE January 12 & 13

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
 Lector C. Drzewiecki
 Altar Servers Geerinc/Torczon Family
 Ministers of the Eucharist B. Garcia, L. Garcia,
 J. Gardner, D. Kelemen, D. Lance

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
 Lector G. Wilson
 Altar Server Mastro Family
 Ministers of the Eucharist J. Klawunn, T. Klawunn,
 K. Malley, B. Minick, A. Miele

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
 Lector K. Kucharski
 Altar Server Hunt Family
 Ministers of the Eucharist L. Gerristead, V. Olesiak,
 A. DeStefano, E. Lacy, C. Frey

Sunday 12:15 p.m.

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
 Lector C. Bitters
 Ministers of the Eucharist A. Sawczuk, M. McCall

PAVING THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

This Weekend

This weekend is the first weekend of the month and the weekend for the Yellow Brick Road of our Mortgage. We are grateful to those who are faithful to this collection to pay for our monthly mortgage of \$6,707. **We indeed appreciate the 129 families who contributed \$7,620.00 in December.** This added amount helps to cover the other months when we have had to rely on fundraising to meet the mortgage. Thank you to all who make this possible.

TOGETHER IN CHARITY

Next Weekend

Next weekend the annual "Together in Charity Collection" will be taken up at all Masses. The proceeds of this collection will help the Parish Emergency Assistance Program, a program of Catholic Charities that provides 24 hour/seven days a week assistance to parishes faced with individuals and families with serious, urgent, financial, housing or medical needs. In this last year, 75% of the parishes in the Diocese availed themselves of this program. Please give generously to this collection and contribute to making this a grace-filled new year for a family or individual in crisis.



PEACE 2008



SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY - Year A

The Epiphany celebrates the disclosure of God's plan for the salvation of all humanity (CCC #74, 543). Paul reminds us about the important part played by the Jewish people in this divine plan (CCC #59-64, 761-62). Matthew reminds us that the innocent who suffer also play a significant part (CCC #164, 1521, 2268-69). God always enters our world to take the side of the innocent victims and expects us Christians to share in this saving work.

SALVATION FOR ALL

The Lord Jesus came to save all humankind, Jews and non-Jews alike. Today we feast the revelation of that great mystery. God's grace filled covenant is opened up to all. The "wise men," and all wise women and men seeing with a child's eyes, discover the star-marked babe in the arms of his mother, Mary. Humbly offering their gifts, they receive the Gospel, the good news of the Lord's arrival amongst his people. God shows himself to us in Jesus and so begins his saving work for each of us. Come let us adore him!

† REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS †

Irene Adams	Robert Govett	Floyd Opdyke
Eleanor Angeline	Rose Gradone	Daisy Ort
Joe Angeline	Andrew Grant	John Pfeufer
Pat Arat	Angela Grieco	Steve Plume
Antonia Baasten	Mickie Griffin	Eddie Poole
Kate Bachman	Christina Grillo	Jack Radin
John Ballard	Ed Hempling	John & Nicole Ramsden
Matthew Ballistar	Anita Horan	Albert Rayburn
Peter Barbieri	Richard Hughes	Ed Reinagel
Agnes Barhart	Brittney Ianitto	Pat Roach
Martha S. Beattie	Travis Jacobs	Julie Ruby
Frances Bihan	Ernest Jandersit	Rogelio Ruiz
Mary Bock	Robert Jandersit	Denise Sanchez
James Burns	Nona Janks	Benjamin Sawczuk
John Burns	Diana Janowski	Gail Sawczuk
Eileen Caffen	Bob Jenkinson	Ed Scharf
Angie Caponetti	Harry Kaemmerer	Chris Seltzer
Joseph Carpentiere	John Kaemmerer	Abe Shalaby
Jose Castro	Trudy Kaemmerer	Paul Shubeck
Lou Citarelli	Garrison Keillor	Marianna Sivori
Riley Clark	Jen Kennedy	Carol Smith
Lorraine Cochran	Rosemary Kimbal	Colleen Smith
Gerard Cook	Mary Kirchner	Alice Sprague
Kristine Orvos Cresti	George Kosteci	Joseph Sterphone
Natalia Cresti	Michael Lamotte	Felicia Steward
Dalton Cummins	Kevin Leahy	Marla Stivers
Joseph D'Achino	Holly Lear	William Stortz
Annette Danziger	Jewel LeVine	Evelyn Sulenski
Peter Demchur	Michele Makos	Mary Sulenski
Anthony DeVito	Silas Mastro	Julie Suplee
Mary Ditzel	Tom Martin	Tracey Sutch
Ann Dodwell	Judy Martino	Margaret Sweeney
Betty Doyle	Iole Matthews	Paul Talias
Paul DuPre	Marie Mazzoni	John Toolan
Courtney Ellis	Zaira Mazzoni	Brian Travis
Elisse Erz	Eileen McCann	Brendan Treanor
Hannah Farrington	Susan McHugh	Rose Uricchio
Mary Feo	Patrick McKenna	Robert Villani
Akiea Finn	George Meyer	Dayelle Watts
Anthony Fiorillo	George Milke	Florence Weimer
Ann Flemming	Betsey Miller	Harvey Whille
Joe Ford	Michael Milto	John William
Katelynn Fortenbacher	Nina Montouri	Kevin Winters
Ted Gaardsmoe	Erica Morgan	Raymond Wojcik
Helen Galligan	Natalie O'Hearn	Gloria Wood
Theresa Galvano	Sr. Margaret O'Rourke	Elizabeth Wodrich
Frank Ghiselli	Robert Olivetti	Lynn Yondolino
Jayne Giese	Gloria Omstead	John J. Zelesny
Tom & Rosary Gilheany	Rolv Omstead	Eileen Zocchi
		Michael Zocchi

Deceased: Josephine Blair, mother of Dave Blair. May she find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord and may her family find strength in the Lord and comfort and support from family and friends.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, January 8

7:00 p.m. People of the Parish

Wednesday, January 9

7:00 a.m. Mark Livoti req. Livoti Family

Friday, January 11

7:00 a.m. Catherine Bohem & Family

Saturday, January 12

5:30 p.m. Dr. Richard G. Jones req. Rita & Walt Price

Sunday, January 13

8:00 a.m. Albin Janks req. Shirley Bumen

10:30 a.m. Gerald Fay req. Al Sterphone

12:15 p.m. Mary Kreiger req. Ferns Family

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 6

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

Monday, January 7

Orthodox Christmas Celebration

10:00 a.m. Appointment

1:00 p.m. Mass (Prison)

Tuesday, January 8

10:00 a.m. Appointment (Neumann Residence)

3:30 p.m. Historical Committee (Office Center)

7:00 p.m. Mass (Neumann Residence)

7:30 p.m. Spiritual Life (Neumann Residence)

Wednesday, January 9

9:30 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence)

10:00 a.m. Appointment (Neumann Residence)

12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting (Office Center)

7:00 p.m. Budget Meeting (Office Center)

7:00 p.m. Fundraising (Office Center)

Thursday, January 10

10:00 a.m. Appointment (Away)

Friday, January 11

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

Sunday, January 12

Together in Charity

REMEMBERED AT MASS



We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and Eucharistic Prayer: **Mickie Griffin – James Marks – Helen Schneiderwind – Adolfo Akelaitis – Msgr. Stephen Bielen – Michelle Stewart – George Garger – Rosalie Karkoska – Josephine Blair**

FEAST OF ST. JOHN NEUMANN

Saturday, January 5

Saturday, January 5 is the feast of St. John Neumann, our patron saint, and the 17th anniversary of the dedication of our Church Center Worship Space. We give thanks for this day and all that it means to the Community of St. John's.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

GENOCIDE

When someone mentions the word "genocide" the thoughts of many spring to the attempt of the Nazis in Germany to exterminate the Jews, many of us are touched by memorials and life stories of survivors. However, all of us agree "Never Again," why then are we blind to the plight of so many millions of people since then that found themselves in the same position as the Jews in Germany during World War II? Most of us continue to ignore the attempts at genocide since then. For those unfamiliar with more recent attempts, one book in particular on the subject by Immaculee Illibagiza entitled "Left to Tell" not only describes the dark place to which the road of prejudice and an "eye for an eye" philosophy can lead, but her own spiritual awakening and discovery of God.

Her story of the Rwandan Holocaust in the 90s is being repeated now in Darfur but still there is not a sufficient outcry to move either our own leaders or those of other countries to make a substantial and immediate contribution to put a stop to the killing. As we began to celebrate our new year, one of our own diplomats (John Granville) lost his life in the chaos of Darfur.

Egypt, Pakistan and Ethiopia recently promised troops in the next two months. It is ironic that Libyan president Moammar Gadhafi is in the forefront of lobbying for forces to put an end to the killing in Darfur, meeting with Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak who promised an immediate twelve-hundred troops, while our president's response was to sign a bill Monday allowing the government and private business to divest themselves of Sudan businesses.

We need to make all of our elected leaders aware of the need to act immediately to stop the killing and prepare a long-term program that will empower those living in the area to deal with their problems both socially and economically. We should remember that the actions that we take now in Darfur set the tone for another generation of either genocide and poverty, or life and security for those living there.

SHIP

Monday, January 14, 10:00 a.m., Office Center

The next scheduled mission providing the noon meal to the SHIP's Galley Soup Kitchen in Somerville is scheduled for Monday, January 14. We will need hot casseroles, soup, tossed salad and fresh fruit. **To donate any of these items, please call Anne Germino at 439-9335.** All items must be at the Office Center by 10:00 a.m. Monday morning, January 14. Thank you for your continued support of this Ministry.

NURSING HOME VISITS

We are still in search of one or two volunteers to coordinate our Nursing Home Visits once a month. Please give prayerful consideration to making this ministry yours. **Call or email Earl eroberts@ccsjn.org.**

HEALTH & SUPPORT SERVICES

In this section over the past two months, we presented information on Health and Supportive Services available in Hunterdon County. If you missed any of these they can be

found on our parish website. Simply go to www.ccsjn.org and follow the like to Hunterdon Health Services.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Women, Children, Men experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault call 888-988-4033

Pick up a brochure in the Narthex.

HUNTERDON HELPLINE



2-1-1 was the first working referral number in New Jersey and part of a

National Initiative to Link People with Community Services. **2-1-1** is to Information & Referral, what 9-1-1 is to emergencies.

Emergency Shelter; Personal Crisis, Suicide Hotline; Abuse Reports; Support Groups; Animal Aid; Senior Assurance Calls; Locate a Food Pantry and more. Questions? See website <http://www.helplinehc.org/> or call **2-1-1**.

REMINDERS

Let Us Know – In order to minister to our community at large, we need your assistance in letting us know who may be in need of help. Often those who are in need are either too entwined in their situation to contact us directly or to proud to ask for help. You can be the "angel of mercy" who helps by simply making us aware of an individual or family in need. Call Earl or Rita at the Office Center, send us an email or use the "Samaritan Tip" form on the parish website – <http://www.ccsjn.org/>

Social Ministry Donations - When making donations unless directed to do otherwise, checks for any Social Ministry function, program or fund raiser should be made out to St. John's Social Ministry with a memo indicating the intended program. This enables the parish to track your donation(s) for end of the year tax reporting. If you make the check payable to another organization then that organization tracks the donation and it won't appear on the tax statement you receive from St. John Neumann. Donations for anything can always be put in the Social Ministry Drop Box located at the Social Ministry Station in the Narthex. Envelopes can be found on the stand next to the box.

Sponsor Child – Please pray for and drop your donation in the Jar at the Social Ministry Station. *(Our community has committed to a minimum of \$30/month to sponsor Angel Cerdana, 11 who lives in the Philippines. See our sponsor child's web page on the parish website.)*

Haves 'n Needs – Member of the parish? List either your "Haves" or your "Needs" on the website www.ccsjn.org

Coupon Clipper's Corner – Please join our regular coupon clippers in donating coupons in support of our holiday food program and the local food pantries. You can drop your coupons in the container in the Narthex. **PLEASE! CLIP THE COUPONS.** Our volunteers are no less busy than anyone else.

New Eyes for the Needy – donate your old eyeglasses in basket at Social Ministry Station

Rosary Beads & Medals - basket at Social Ministry Station
St. Jude's Ranch – please donate all your Campbell Soup labels to Social Ministry to help St. Jude's Ranch.

EVANGELIZATION

THE EUCHARIST POWERHOUSE OF EVANGELIZATION

Vatican II taught that the Eucharist is the "source and summit of Christian Life." In the Eucharist, we find the whole spiritual good of the Church, Jesus the Christ substantially present in the Eucharist is the dynamic source that drives everything including evangelization. All that a parish, priest and laity, do extends from this "spiritual powerhouse" from pastoral ministry to social justice.

The Apostles answered the call of Jesus because of the words he spoke, the goodness that surrounded His every action and His moral teaching. When He said to them "Come follow Me," these were the reasons that they followed. There was no prestige, financial gain or promise of immortality, just Christ and his word.

That is all there was then, and that is all we need now, and both are still with us, His word in the Gospel and His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. Through these, all will be given the opportunity to accept Jesus, and evil and adversity will be overcome.

CATHOLIC INQUIRY

Catholic Inquiry is the first phase of the journey to initiation for adults. It is a time for informally sharing our stories and helping one another discern where God is leading. It's a time to get acquainted with Catholics and our Church. **If you are thinking about becoming Catholic**, you are invited to journey with members of St. John's Initiation Team on the rewarding and enriching path to becoming a Catholic Christian. ***The details and duration of this faith journey vary according to each individual's starting point.***

RETURNING TO THE CHURCH?

If you or someone that you know is returning to the Church after a long absence, please call Earl Roberts at 832-2262. Let us welcome you/them back and provide a copy of a "Handbook for Today's Catholic" to help you grow in faith.

YOUR PRAYERS

Please support all parish ministries as a spiritual partner by remembering us each day in your prayers using your own prayers or the Bible. Pray that the Holy Spirit will be with all of us who are actively involved in our community ministries.



DISCOVERY SUNDAY
January 27, 2007, 2:00 p.m.
Church Center

Newcomers are invited to attend the **January 27 Discovery Sunday at 2:00 p.m.** in the Church Center. At that time, staff and parishioners will welcome newcomers and present information on the past history and present focus of the parish. Important: It is essential that anyone wishing to participate in this Discovery Sunday inform the Parish Office, 832-2513 or via the form on the parish website – www.ccsjn.org. A packet of materials is prepared especially for each family.

TOM AND ROSARY GILHEANY

Tom and Rosary were injured in an auto accident the week of Dec. 9th. They are at the Atlantic Rehabilitation Institute, 95 Mt. Kimble Ave. (Route 202), Morristown, NJ 07960. Tom will be there until Jan. 1st and Rosary will be there for several weeks. She will be receiving Physical Therapy for her broken hip. They have trouble calling out so I said we will call to see if they have any needs. If anyone works up there and could drop anything they need off please let the office know so that we can coordinate trips. The facility is located before you get into Morristown. It is the former All Souls Hospital.

FUND RAISING

SHOP RITE & A&P CARDS

We had **16 families** purchase Shop-Rite and A&P gift cards last weekend, for a total of **\$1,750.00** with **\$87.50** coming to the parish. Stop after Mass on the weekends or come to the Office Center during the week. It costs you nothing and the Parish gains 5% on all gift cards. Our thanks to all who purchase these cards and to those who are willing to stay after Mass to sell them.

ITALIAN DINNER HELP

We need **teen and adult** help to set up, serve, wash dishes and clean up for this Catholic Heart Workcamp fundraiser. A portion of the funds will also be donated to buy a "train car" for Fr. Šimo's Youth Center in Sarajevo. Set up will be Thursday, January 31 at 6:00 p.m. Servers need to be here 6:00 p.m. Friday, February 1 and are asked to wear khaki or black pants and a white shirt. Dishwashers can sign up for one-hour shifts beginning at 6:30 p.m. Clean up will be Saturday, February 2; time to be determined. **Please contact Mary Connolly as soon as possible at mandmconnolly@earthlink.net or 537-2032.**

QUILTERS ARE STITCHING AGAIN

After taking a brief break over the Christmas holiday, the Sacristy Stitchers are back at the quilt frame in the Seton Room. If you've thought about participating in this fundraising ministry, why not start with the new year! To accommodate both day and evening availability or preference, two groups work simultaneously on the same project. The daytime quilters meet on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. until noon and the evening groups meets on Thursdays from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Weekly attendance is not mandatory, nor is quilting experience. **Call Bonnie Garcia at 975-3003 or Barbara Gates at 832-6423, respectively, for Tuesday or Thursday information.**

COMMUNITY NEWS

HOST FAMILY NEEDED

His father, Stefan Schneider, spent his junior year in high school at Vorhees and now his son Tim wants to do the same. A host family is needed for one year starting in the fall of 2008. Tim is 15 years old and speaks German, English, and French. He currently lives in Cologne. **Please contact Fred Pfeufer (832-7935) if interested or for more information.** I can personally vouch for the Schneider family and for Tim.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Friday, February 1, 7:15 p.m., Church Center



Infant baptism preparation is an outreach of support to new parents by the St. John's Baptism Team on behalf of our community. Following an initial pastoral visit at the parish office with either the Pastoral Assistant for Evangelization and Social Ministry or the

Coordinator of the Baptism Preparation Team to start the process, parents attend one preparation session, which is offered quarterly. Baptism Host Couples from St. John's Baptism Team facilitate the program and assist on the day of Baptism as well.

All St. John's Baptisms are celebrated at a regular weekend Mass, except in special circumstances. The Community is present to welcome the child into the church and to pledge their support to the new parents as they raise their child in the faith we share.

Parents are expected to be registered active members of The Community of St. John Neumann. At least one Godparent needs to be a practicing Catholic. The next scheduled Baptism Prep Program is **Friday – February 1 at 7:15 p.m.** For more information or to begin the process please call the parish office center at 832-2513 or use the online form from the parish website – www.ccsjn.org.

UPDATED STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please note that the parish and staff email addresses have changed

Catholic Community of St. John Neumann sjn@ccsjn.org
Dr. Rose Fay, Pastoral Asst. for Catechesis rosefay@ccsjn.org
Kristin Gemma, Bulletin Coordinator kgemma@ccsjn.org
Sharon Janks, Pastoral Administrator sjanks@ccsjn.org
Rev. J. William Mickiewicz, Pastor jwmickiewicz@ccsjn.org
Rita Price, Secretary ritaprice@ccsjn.org
Earl Roberts, Pastoral Asst. for Evangelization
and Social Ministry eroberts@ccsjn.org
Maureen Stout, Financial Administrator maureenstout@ccsjn.org
Annette Tagliareni, Office of Catechesis annettetag@ccsjn.org

RESPECT LIFE

"The Old and New Testaments are filled with...passages extolling children as gift and blessing. It is disheartening, therefore to see how far our culture has diverged from that view....There was no confusion [in the story of Mary and Elizabeth] as to what and who nestled under their mother's hearts. Yet, 2,000 years later, many well-educated people do not know – or claim they do not know – the truth about human life before birth." Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, *Southern Cross*, 10/11/07.



BANNS OF MARRIAGE

I. Amanda Richardson & Sam Danziger

MILITARY PERSONNEL

If you have someone in the military that you would like us to remember in our prayers, call the **Office Center, 832-2513**, or drop the name into the collection basket. Please remember the following in your prayers:

Lt. Col. Blewitt, Joseph, U.S. Air Force
Capt. Bohanan, Luke P., U.S. Army
Sgt. Brisson, Mark D., USMC
IT3 Combel, Tracey, U.S. Navy
Lance Corp., Coe, Kevin, USMC
Lt. Colonel Campbell, Vincent, USMC
CPL Connaughton, Michael, USMC
AMN Connaughton, Christopher, U.S. Air Force
AMN Connaughton, Monica, U.S. Air Force
RP2 Ditzel, Joseph, U.S. Navy
LCPL Dombrowski, David, USMC
Capt. Gutowski, Charles M., U.S. Army
2Lt. Gutowski, Jared, E., USMC
CW4, Ferguson, Michael, U.S. Army
Lt. Friedman, Lee E., U.S. Navy
Hafke, Michael, National Guard
Airman First Class Heimall, Benjamin, U.S. Air Force
CMDR Hopkins, John A., U.S. Navy
GM3 Hurler, Shane
SSgt. Jirouschek, Thomas, U.S. Air Force
PFC Jones, Joshua, USMC
AO2 Jones, Lee M. Jr.
MC2 Juday, Gregory, U.S. Navy
Lt. JG Kellogg, Kenyon, U.S. Navy Pilot
CPL. Krause, James E., USMC
SFC Lamberton, Brian, U.S. Army
Lt. Larsen, Christopher M. U.S. Army
RP3 Brown, Leighton M., U.S. Navy
ET2 Linzmeyer, Travis, U.S. Navy
Chaplain (LT) Logan, Eddy, U.S. Navy
Maj. McVicker, Andrew, USMC
HN Meyer, Pamela A, U.S. Navy
Novello, Chris, U.S. Army, Green Beret
Maj. Martin, John, USMC
ATI Mastro II, Michael R., U.S. Navy
Capt. David Omstead, USA
Capt. Barbara Omstead, USA
Maj. Pidgeon, Paul, U.S. Army
HN Pocius, Michael, U.S. Navy
PC2 Quinn, Lisa, U.S. Navy
1st Lt. Rautenberg, Erik, Army National Guard
EM3 Runge, Adam, U.S. Navy
2nd Lt. Sekula, Daniel R. Army National Guard
Commander Simila, Edward A. U.S. Navy
Lt. Slack, Terry, USMC
Staff Sgt. Sowa, Paul, USMC
Sgt. Vasquez, Armando, U.S. Army
Airman Basic Vigilante, William, U.S. Air Force
Captain Wade, Dominic, U.S. Army
2ND Lt., Warkentin, William J., USMC
Airman Basic Wiedmann, Alex J., U.S. Air Force

MILITARY FAMILY SUPPORT

You are not alone in your experiences of dealing with a loved one who is on military deployment. Several families in St. John's community have lived with the emotional roller coaster and are here for you should you wish. **Contact Marian and Russ Ditzel (638-4640), Mary and Mike Mastro (537-6224), or Catherine McVicker (303-0907) at any time.**

ADULT FORMATION

PONDERING PAUSES

"Beginning Anew"

We end a year and begin anew. The past is over and done with. There are no recalls for the things we have done and for the most part we cannot alter its events. How many of those deeds are we proud of and how many do we wish we could undo? They have all been recorded (Rev. 20:12).

What can be said of our spiritual life and the condition of our soul? Did we improve or backslide? Have we become stronger in our faith or are we allowing it to fade away with only an occasional visit to the Lord's Table (Mass and Communion)? Is it time to point our feet in a direction that more closely follows Christ's footsteps? We often fail at New Years resolutions mainly because our heart is not in it and we have no one to help us along the way. Not so with our faith. Jesus is always ready to help us succeed; to grow in faith and improve the condition of our soul. He is also there to help us help others, all we need do is ask!

Earl Roberts

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE DATE OF EASTER

Dear brothers and sisters, the glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall ever be manifest among us until the day of his return.

Through the rhythms of times and seasons let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation.

Let us recall the year's culmination, the Easter Triduum of the Lord:

his last supper, his crucifixion, his burial and his rising, celebrated between the evening of the twentieth of March and the evening of the twenty-third of March.

Each Easter as on each Sunday the Holy Church makes present the great saving deed by which Christ has for ever conquered sin and death.

From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy.

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will occur on the sixth of February.

The Ascension of the Lord will be commemorated on the first day of May.

And this year the First Sunday of Advent will be on the thirtieth of November.

Likewise the pilgrim church proclaims the Passover of Christ in the feasts of the holy Mother of God, in feasts of the Apostles and Saints,

and in the commemoration of the faithful departed.

To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, Lord of time and history, be endless praise for ever and ever,

AMEN

SPIRITUAL LIFE GATHERING

Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 p.m. in the Neumann Residence Chapel

DIOCESAN NEWS

LIVING IN LOVE

February 9-10, St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway

The Family Life Office of the Diocese of Metuchen will offer "Living in Love," a mini retreat workshop for married couples designed to energize the romance and renew the excitement of being in love. The weekend is a series of presentations followed by questions for reflection and discussion so that couples can explore the topics together in complete privacy. There is no group discussion or counseling. Cost is \$125 per couple, which includes all materials, refreshments and a "romantic" Saturday evening meal. Time is Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. For information and registration, call 732-562-1990, ext 1624.

PASTORAL COUNCIL EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pam Stewart..... apstewart@att.net
John Cole..... johncole@nac.net
Lyle Garcia..... blgarcia2@yahoo.com
Dana Wilson..... wilsdana@hotmail.com
Therese Shick..... etshick@gmail.com
Phyllis Baker..... p.baker@patmedia.net
Kevin Dean..... Kevin.Dean@VerizonWireless.com
Fr. Bill..... jwmickiewicz@ccsjn.org
Marilyn Wickel..... mfwickel@embarqmail.com
Mary Connolly..... mandmconnolly@earthlink.net

2007 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

"Disciples of Christ...Stewards of His Gifts"

\$29,185.96 pledged from 142 families toward our goal of \$30,500.

Each year thousands of God's People in Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Warren counties are served through your generosity to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. The Appeal places your gift in action through more than 25 diocesan ministries that provide service for both the young and old alike. This myriad of services includes: Catholic Chaplains in local secular hospitals, a central office to serve the religious education programs of 108 parishes, a central school office to serve our Catholic elementary and high schools, and Catholic Charities that provides social outreach and programming to support children, families and seniors.

If you have yet to make your 2007 Bishop's Annual Appeal gift – please do so TODAY!

It is not too late! Thank you for your anticipated response.

"Hooray! We are at 95.69% of our goal. Thanks to all who have made this possible.

CATECHESIS

“Encountering the Living Christ”

The Epiphany of the Lord

Focus: Epiphany Joy
“Jesus shines as light for our world.”

Scripture: Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

Matthew 2:1-12

Reflection: What treasures do you bring to the Body of Christ? How will you use your gifts to serve the gospel?

Song: “We Three Kings” #103

Story: The journey for the black stone

Two brothers were sent by their tribe into the forbidden mountains to bring back the black stone. The beautiful and durable black stone was used to make knives and arrowheads. The long journey into the mountains was very dangerous, but an elder of the tribe warned them, “There is much more danger waiting than enemies on two and four legs.”

The brothers set off. After many days, they managed to reach the forbidden mountains safely. They gathered two bags full of the black stone. But on their way down the mountain, the brothers encountered every trouble they had somehow eluded on their way up the forbidden mountains: a giant bear, wildcats, flash floods, sudden cold and enemy warriors. They managed to escape all of these dangers, but in their flight from the mountains they lost their weapons, their provisions - and a bag of the valuable black stone.

One night, the exhausted and hungry brothers made camp in a cave. The older of the two brothers suddenly pointed to a shadow, “Someone is following us! We must hurry!”

The younger brother could see no one.

“Yes, over there!” the older brother insisted. “See! He is coming after us! Hurry!”

The two raced from the cave. After running for some time, they stopped to rest. But the older brother pointed to the darkness, “He is coming! Listen!”

The younger brother had never seen such fear on his brother’s face. “Don’t build a fire, he will see us!” Every sound in the darkness sent the older brother into greater panic. He threw stones and sticks at the giant he was convinced was hiding in the darkness. Neither brother slept. At sunrise, the older brother cried, “He is there! He is still after us! He is getting larger! Run!”

For hours the brothers ran from the giant - a giant that had completely terrorized the older brother but that the younger brother still could not see. At last the brothers were too exhausted to run any more. Stumbling to the ground, the older brother pointed to the darkness, “He will kill us! There he is! We’re going to die!”

The younger brother finally understood what was happening. He grabbed the remaining bag of the black stone and threw pieces of the brilliant stone in the direction his brother had pointed. “Go away! I know who you are!” With each stone, the form the older brother saw grew smaller and smaller. With the last stone the younger

brother threw, the older brother saw the form finally disappear.

The older brother collapsed with exhaustion. Weary himself, the younger brother set up camp, building a fire and snaring a rabbit for their supper. They spent their first peaceful night since leaving the mountains. At dawn, the younger brother gathered up the few pieces of black stone he could find. The brothers finally made their way home.

After they had eaten and rested, the wise elder explained to them that the true reward of their journey was not the black stone but confronting the giant. The younger brother understood that their imaginations had created the giant: the giant that stalked them was their fear and despair.

[Adapted from *Keeping Going: The Art of Perseverance* by Joseph M. Marshall.]

Like the magi’s journey for the newborn king of the Jews, like the brothers’ quest for the black stone, our lives are a continuing “epiphany” - a journey for wisdom, for understanding, for meaning, for purpose. It is an adventure in which we confront the “giants,” real and imaginary, that deter us from making our way to God. The Gospel of the Epiphany challenges us to slow down and check our bearings, to focus on the “star” we follow to make our lives what God has created them to be, to fix our lives on the constant, eternal values of peace, compassion, mercy, justice, and forgiveness that are of God.

Connections, January 2008

SUNDAY CATECHESIS GATHERING EVENTS RESCHEDULED

The CPI Christmas Program is rescheduled for Epiphany Sunday, January 6 in the Valley View Cafeteria. CPI students should report to class at 8:30 a.m. that day. The First Eucharist Parent Meeting scheduled for January 6 has been canceled and rescheduled to January 27 in the Valley View School cafeteria at 9:00 a.m. First Grade Family Faith Day has been rescheduled to January 13. Please accompany your child to class this day.

PARISH NEWS

25TH ANNIVERSARY T SHIRTS

We are offering for sale 25th anniversary T Shirts. They are \$15.00 a piece and come in sizes for men and youth and different design and sizes for women. You can pick one up in the Narthex after Mass. I gave them to my family for Christmas. They are great keepsakes of our anniversary

CHRISTMAS GRATITUDE

As a community we are grateful for all the time, talent and treasure that is shared in the celebration of Christmas. Though we do not have all the names at this time I would like to extend the community’s thanks for all who cleaned, decorated, erected trees (and contributed them), were a part of the music ministry and who were a part of the communication network. It takes a parish for this to happen and we are grateful for those who came forward to make this possible. The new stable (**Fred Heimall**), the Luminaries (**The Paterson Family**), the addition of the Magi

advancing each day (**the Stanski Family**), and all the unseen random acts of kindness that are often not seen add up to the big picture and celebration.

DE-DECORATING

The word before hello is goodbye. De-decorating is an act that has to be thought of before the decorating or else we still have things around long after the celebration. We had to still take down and put away some of the Easter decorations at Christmas. (We should have left them out since Easter will soon be upon us - early this year)

And so please consider if you can help us de-decorate on Wednesday, January 16 or any other time that you have available when you can do single jobs any time after Sunday, January 13, the Baptism of the Lord. (St. Peter's Square keeps their decorations up until the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2 but we move on.) Sign up in the Narthex or on line or call the Parish Office for another time. Thank you.

A SERIOUS MATTER

We have a serious matter on our hands in reference to the Narthex. As you know many different people and projects use the Narthex (as well as other parts of our building). What is happening is that people set up their display or station without consideration of those who will come after them or who have placed things in the Narthex before them. People are totally disregarding this small point. And of course they dump them in the Sacristy or Coat Room. Please do not work in a vacuum.

While cleaning up and setting up for Christmas I discovered cookbook orders, recipes, and Stewardship forms in the Sacristy. Sign-up sheets are put out and then taken away by someone else who uses the Narthex space without putting them back. People borrow (steal) someone else's table or stand and push the previous one aside. (Of course some people never take their things down either.) There were several tags taken and not logged in for the Christmas gifts from the Giving Tree. Since they never came in we wonder if people just took the tags for fun or played with them when they had nothing else to do. However someone had to run around trying to get these gifts so that they could be distributed. Some came in too late for delivery.

We need to respect other people's displays and projects. If in doubt please ask or even tell us what you are doing and where you put them so that we can search them out. Please also do not block EXITS. It is vital to keep them free and open for an emergency. Put things back where you find them and don't discard anything unless you ask. What is trash to one may be treasure to another or a vital part of some appliance. Thank you for not existing in a vacuum but realizing we all need to work together in community if it is to work.

HISTORICAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 8, 3:30 p.m., Seton Room

Our next Historical Committee meeting, working on the 25th anniversary booklet, is on Tuesday, January 8 at 3:30 p.m. in the Seton Room.

25TH ANNIVERSARY DATES



May 18, 2008 – 2:00 p.m. – Celebration Mass – Bishop Bootkoski
October 4, 2008 – 3:00 p.m. Mass and Gala Picnic

TRAIN CARS FOR THE JOHN PAUL II YOUTH CENTER SARAJEVO

It is already two years since the renovation of the two existing houses started and one year since the various projects took place for the young people in Bosnia at the ground of the John Paul II Youth Center in Sarajevo. The Youth Center, although it is not finished yet, continues to invite young people to share their experiences, to learn something new, to work and pray together and to get to know new friends.

Since the diocese is still suffering because of the consequences of the war, the Youth Center is struggling to pay basic bills (electricity, heat, phone...). Therefore John Paul II Youth Center together with the Youth Center Hardehausen in Germany started the project Train cars for the John Paul II Youth Center. The goal is to find 150 youth groups, families, companies or persons till Easter 2008 who would be willing to donate one train car for the train that would be Foundation for John Paul II Youth Center in Sarajevo. Every train car is 1,000.00 Euro (about 1,430.00 US Dollars). We need 150,000.00 Euro to start the Foundation till Easter 2008 and then eventually get to 250,000.00 Euro which will bring interest of 1,000.00 Euro monthly for the Youth Center bills.

We started this project here in Bosnia (parishes, youth groups, companies...), in Austria and in Germany. At this moment we have about 50 train cars donated. You can follow whole project and see the whole train at: www.mladicentar.org under the link Foundation John Paul II Youth Center or www.sarajevo-vision.de/hdh/aktionen/stiftung/spender.htm.

I invite you to join us on our journey in John Paul II Youth Center in Sarajevo and help us find the needed train cars. Thinking and praying for you! Yours, Fr. Šimo.

Donations can be made to St. John's and will be deposited in a fund here for Fr. Šimo.

INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE

Many thanks to the families who have contributed musical instruments for the Pope John Paul II Youth Center in Sarajevo. They will be a wonderful addition to the program that **Father Šimo** is creating!! The **Mastro family** has donated an acoustic guitar and electronic keyboard, the **Crescenti family** has donated a trumpet and saxophone, the **Germino family** has donated a flute, and the **Cole family** has donated a flute as well. Arrangements will be made to ship them to Father Šimo!

This program will be a continuing one. **If you come upon an instrument in good working condition, please contact Charlotte Cole @ 908-832-2745 regarding a donation.** Instruments will be accepted at any time for the Youth Center that is just beginning. We will help the music program grow however we can. Thank you for your generosity!

STEWARDSHIP – TIME & TALENT

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

Stewardship Thoughts

The twelfth day of Christmas, was called the festival of lights in ancient times. We rejoice because, just as the star led the Magi to Christ, we have been guided by faith to the same destination. Scripture scholars believe the Magi would have come from Iran or Iraq - so we realize anew that Christ came to unite the world in love, peace, and mutual respect. Bless your home today, asking for those qualities to fill every heart during the coming year. Use chalk to mark the lintel of the front door: 20+C+M+B+08. The letters represent the names tradition gave to the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also stand for *Christus mansionem benedicat* - May Christ bless this home. Process through every room, bearing candles. Sing carols, especially "We Three Kings" and "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Then have a candlelit feast!

Creating and recognizing sacred space. Sharing that space makes it holy. "We are a stewardship parish sharing time, talent and treasure as a spiritual way of life." How have you shared the space of your home? When have you welcomed guests, strangers or friends? How do you make due with the space? What does this sharing do for you as an individual and as a family? What gifts do others bring beside any material ones? How does this affect your family? Do you invite others to share their customs and traditions? Are you open to their differences? How do you benefit with this sharing? How do you grow spiritually in this interchange and sharing? We are stretched beyond our concepts and experiences. We make room for God incarnate and to be born again. Follow the star to stewardship.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

OFFICE ANGELS

Monday, January 7	- Angel Needed	a.m.
	- I. Gerristead	p.m.
Tuesday, January 8	- M. McCall	p.m.
Wednesday, January 9	- Angel Needed	p.m.
Thursday, January 10	- D. Zigmantanis	p.m.

SHOP RITE & A&P CARDS

January 5 & 6	- E. McCabe	5:30 p.m.
	- P. Sullivan	8:00 a.m.
	- C. Manbeck	10:30 a.m.
	- D. Hingos	12:15 p.m.
January 12 & 13	- J. Eacovalle	5:30 p.m.
	- J. Klawunn	8:00 a.m.
	- C. Schaumburg	10:30 a.m.
	- D. Hingos	12:15 p.m.

CHURCH CENTER WATERING SCHEDULE

Week of January 5	-	M. Cangelosi
Week of January 13	-	M. Stout

CHURCH CENTER CLEANING TEAM

January 11	-	Team D
January 18	-	Team E

BULLETIN TRANSPORTERS

January 11	-	P. Dattler
January 18	-	M. Sowa

STEWARDSHIP – TREASURE

STEWARDSHIP SPIRITUALITY



**"We are a Stewardship Parish sharing
Time, Talent, and Treasure as a way of life."
95 Responses from 366 Families
89 Time & Talent, 77 Treasure**

Today we remember the three wise men from the East who came to pay homage to the infant Jesus, bringing him rich gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gifts we bring – our time and service and some share of what we earn for the work we do – are equally precious in his sight.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

For December 31, 2006

93 Weekly Donors.....	\$2,447.50
23 Monthly Donors.....	\$5,134.00
Loose Money.....	<u>\$92.00</u>
Total.....	\$7,673.50
Special Collection (January 1).....	\$128.00

For December 30, 2007 (366 Families)

104 Weekly Donors.....	\$3,047.00
18 Monthly Donors.....	\$3,259.00
Loose Money.....	<u>\$140.00</u>
Total.....	\$6,446.00
Special Collection (January 1).....	\$1,358.00

Weekly Need..... \$7,034.00

Weekly Averages:

November.....	\$7,317.00
October.....	\$6,626.00
September.....	\$6,664.00
August.....	\$7,212.00
July.....	\$6,103.00
June.....	\$7,029.00
May.....	\$6,439.00
April.....	\$6,234.00
March.....	\$6,926.00
February.....	\$7,126.00
January.....	\$6,699.00
December.....	\$7,868.00

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

For December 30, 2007

		<u>Weekly</u>		<u>Monthly</u>			
6	5.00	=	30.00	1	24.00	=	24.00
14	10.00	=	140.00	6	50.00	=	300.00
8	15.00	=	120.00	1	60.00	=	60.00
24	20.00	=	500.00	1	80.00	=	80.00
1	22.00	=	22.00	3	100.00	=	300.00
17	25.00	=	425.00	1	125.00	=	125.00
3	30.00	=	90.00	1	150.00	=	150.00
5	35.00	=	175.00	2	160.00	=	320.00
8	40.00	=	320.00	1	900.00	=	900.00
8	50.00	=	400.00	1	1000.00	=	1000.00
3	75.00	=	225.00	18			3259.00
1	90.00	=	90.00				
4	100.00	=	400.00				
1	110.00	=	110.00				
104			3047.00				

CHRISTMAS FLOWER INTENTIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Altavilla	Edward Furlong	Notaroberto Family
Noah Angelici	Gates Family	Olesiak Family
Lee Ann Antalek	Robert Geist	Opdyke Family
Intentions of Pat Arat	Fabiola & Vito Giametta	Owens Family
John Aquino	Sally Graham	Leonard Paicer
Eileen Armstrong	Mickie Griffin	Harry Paolicchi
Merton Baker	Handy Family	Pellegrino Family
Mary & Joseph Barbone	Ann Harrison	Annette Patterson
Thomas E. Barrow	Judi Hawurth	Andrew Plaisted
Frances Behan	Mildred Healy	Florence & Silvio Prandato
Bennett Family	Herrig Family	Price Family
Benson Family	Alice & Benjamin Kanzler	Pyskaty Family
Joe & Veretta Berg	Marta & William Kasznica	Sophie Radomski
Boccella Family	Kasznica Family	Alejandro Remon
Borelli Family	John & Clair Kearns	Ana Remon
Brisson Family	Kelemen Family	Harry A. Richardson
Vincent & Mary Buinno	Kerestan Family	Walter Robinson
Burns Family	Walburga Ketcham	Andrew Rogers
Frank Bumen	James Kiley	Stan Sawczuk
Edna Bushhoff	Elaine King	Anna & Frank Scaglione
Edith & Ralph Cangelosi	Virginia King	Anne Schettino
Charlie Cap	Kirsch Family	Christine & Morty Schwitzer
Patricia Carnrike	Klacik Family	Dorothy A. Shannon
Carroll Family	Friends & Family of Steve & Terry	Vincent J. Shannon
Joseph Charkut	Kostiw	Shick Family
Irene, Michael, Dominica Colabella	Joseph Krufka	Shump Family
Marilyn Cornelius	Mr. & Mrs. M Joseph Kuber	Anna Sima
D'Armiento Family	Gunter Kuhn	Simmons
Jorge Dawson	Lacy Family	Alice & Edward Sklenar
Dean Family	Leo & Jennie LaFauci	Smeenck Family
Linda Dee	Lambert Family	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sofranko
Sal J. DeStefano	Lehnert Family	Souls in Purgatory
DiMichele Family	Mineko Lewis	Joanne Marie Stemple
Dowhan Family	Ed Lichtenstein	Jesse Stout
Antonio & Isaura Domingues	Louis & Betty Livoti	Sullivan Family
Doyle Family	Mark Livoti	Eva Testa
Henry Drucker	Libby Britt Long	Frank & Veronica Torczon
Drzewiecki Family	Lowick Family	Mark Torczon
DuBeau Family	MacKenzie/Grant Family	Richard Torczon
Dwyer Family	Margaret & John Mauro	Bob Vellucci
Eacovalle Family	McCormack Family	Alfred Vincenzi
Frances & Stephen Estock	McKenna Family	Richard Waddleton
Joan Evans	Milko Family	Josephine & Walter Wefeuling
Fabiano Family	Moneypenny Family	Diane Wichtendahl
Falotico Family	Blanche Mikrut	Wickel Family
Fazekas Family	Mulhern Family	Zabrowsky Family
Fotta Family	Oliver Murnane	Zelesny Family
Olive & Marcel Frappier	Mr. & Mrs. R. Norris	John & Marian Zelinka
Mary Frey		Zigmantanis Family