



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19, 2009

“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

THE WEEK THAT IS

**Sunday, April 19 – Aid to Eastern Europe/Home
Missions Food Pantry Weekend/Spring
Giving Tree Starts**

- 9:00 a.m. K-6 Catechesis (Valley View)
- 9:00 a.m. Family Faith Day – Grade 5 (Valley View)
- 10:30 a.m. Baptism – Herman (Church Center)
- 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

Monday, April 20 – Bl. James Bell

- 7:30 p.m. Fundraising Meeting (Office Center)

Tuesday, April 21 – St. Anselm

- 9:30 a.m. Quilting (Office Center)
 - 5:00 p.m. Radio Show (Away)
 - 7:00 p.m. Property Management Meeting (Office Center)
- No Mass**

Wednesday, April 22 – St. Senorina

- 9:30 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence)
- 7:00 p.m. Pastoral Council Meeting (Office Center)

Thursday, April 23 – St. George & St. Adalbert

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

Friday, April 24 – St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

- 7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence)
- 5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)
- 7:30 p.m. Folk Group (Church Center)

Saturday, April 25 – St. Mark

- 9:30 a.m. Saturday Catechesis (Church Center)
- 2:30 p.m. First Eucharist Session 6 (Church Center)
- Bread and Roses Ball (Bridgewater Marriott)

Sunday, April 26 – Mother’s Day Intentions

- 10:30 a.m. Baptism (Church Center)
- 10:30 a.m. Children’s Liturgy of the Word (Church Center)

MASS SCHEDULE

April 25 & 26

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
 Lector R. Maratta
 Ministers of the Eucharist L. Garcia, B. Garcia,
 M. MacKenzie, D. Lance, V. Olesiak

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
 Lector C. McVicker
 Altar Server Sullivan Family
 Ministers of the Eucharist C. Behrens, J. Klawunn,
 T. Klawunn, J. Sima, D. Sima

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

**Baptism
Children’s Liturgy of the Word**

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
 Lector D. Geerinck
 Gift Bearers Hunt Family
 Ministers of the Eucharist J. Eacovalle, L. Eacovalle,
 M. Milko, C. Zelesny, W. Zelesny

Sunday 12:15 p.m.

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
 Lector S. Gemma
 Ministers of the Eucharist A. Giametta, **1 Needed**

COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE/HOME MISSIONS

This Weekend

In the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Catholics face many challenges. Stand in solidarity and make a difference to your Catholic brothers and sisters in Georgia, Ukraine, Estonia, Poland, Serbia, Latvia, Belarus, and other distant places. Please be generous in this week’s collection. Learn more at www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.

MOTHER’S DAY INTENTIONS

The collection after the communion of the Mass next weekend will be for Mother’s Day Intentions. For those who need cards they may be found in the Narthex.

NO MASS

Please note that there will not be any Mass on Tuesday evening, April 21. Father and members of the Pastoral Staff will be on the radio from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on WDVR at 89.7 AM and 91.9 FM. Participate by calling in at 609-397-1620.

ORTHODOX EASTER

THIS SUNDAY IS ORTHODOX EASTER - That is Easter for those who follow the Julian Calendar. We wish all those who follow that rite a Sacred and Blessed Easter. “ Christ is Risen. Alleluia. Alleluia.” “He is risen indeed. Alleluia. Alleluia.”

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR B

Today we are reminded that Jesus' new life within us changes our attitudes and behavior. But it can also raise doubts. Belief is never completely certain. Doubts arise, as they did for Thomas (CCC #142-75, 1814-16, 2087-89). His failure was not so much his desire for "proof" of Jesus' new life, but rather his refusal to accept the Easter proclamation of the other disciples (CCC #156-59, 547-550, 670). He demanded a first-hand experience of Jesus rather than accept the word of the disciples. As the evangelist John so clearly notes, becoming a believer is not based for most people on seeing Jesus but on the word of faithful disciples (CCC #153-165).

WITNESSES

The apostles testified to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, even Thomas, the doubter. "This witness is recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, Son of God." Tradition is the handing on of this firsthand witness of those who saw from the beginning till each of us now. "Happy and blessed are those who have not seen, yet believe." Our faith is based on witnesses. We cry with Thomas, "My Lord and my God!" May the Lord strengthen us and give us his peace. Peace be with you.

† REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS †

Irene Adams Eleanor Angeline Joe Angeline Pat Arat Antonia Baasten Kate Bachman Richard Baker John Ballard Peter Barbieri Agnes Barhart Carol Becker Mary Anna Bennett Jean Blewitt Mary Bock Loretta Briener Eugene Brzezienski Shirley Bumen James Burns John Burns Eileen Cafilin Angie Caponetti Barbara Carbonneau Joseph Carpentiere John Caspar Jose Castro Lou Citarelli Riley Clark Lorraine Cochrane Gerard Cook Jon Cord Valerie Cordero Kristine Orvos Cresti Natalia Cresti Dalton Cummins Joseph D'Achino Sr. Ann Damian Maria Elena Dawson Peter Demchur Dorothy Deo Nick DeVincenzo Anthony DeVito Mary Ditzel Ann Dodwell Betty Doyle Paul DuPre Richard Dziepak Lou Eacovalle Courtney Ellis Hannah Farrington Mary Feo Akiea Finn	Anthony Fiorillo Ann Flemming Ryan Flynn Katelynn Fortenbacher Helen Galligan Theresa Galvano Frank Ghiselli Jayne Giese Jerry Goski Sophia Goski Robert Govett Rose Gradone Angela Grieco Christina Grillo Colleen Hendzrak Anita Horan Richard Hughes Brittney Janitto Jeannine Imperiale Ernest Jandersit Robert Jandersit Nona Janks Diana Janowski Bob Jenkinson Harry Kaemmerer John Kaemmerer Trudy Kaemmerer Garrison Keillor Rosemary Kimbal Mary Kirchner Spencer Kydd Michael Lamotte Harry Larson Kevin Leahy Holly Lear Jewel LeVine Michele Makos Taylor Maleski Silas Mastro Tom Martin Judy Martino Marie Mazzoni Susan McHugh Patrick McKenna Brett Melworn George Meyer George Milke Betsey Miller Michael Milto Nina Montouri Erica Morgan	Natalie O'Hearn Robert Olivetti Gloria Omstead Rolv Omstead Floyd Opdyke Daisy Ort Nilsa Perez-Parsons John Pfeufer Steve Plume Irma Price John & Nicole Ramsden Albert Rayburn Ed Reinagel Jerry Reslmaier Alissa Marie Ricciardi Pat Roach Julie Ruby John Sawczuk Maria Sawczuk Ed Scharf Chris Seltzer Abe Shalaby Paul Shubeck Sister Mary George Marianna Sivori Carol Smarsh Colleen Smith Alice Sprague Joseph Sterphone Felicia Steward Marla Stivers William Stortz Timothy Struble Evelyn Sulenski Mary Sulenski Julie Suplee Tracey Sutch Margaret Sweeney John Toolan Brendan Treanor Rose Uricchio Robert Villani Dayelle Watts James Emory Weber, Sr. Harvey Whille John William Gloria Wood Elizabeth Wodrich Lynn Yondolino John J. Zelesny Eileen Zocchi Michael Zocchi
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MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, April 21

7:00 p.m. No Mass

Wednesday, April 22

9:30 a.m. Ruth Ellmyer req. Vigilante Family

Friday, April 24

7:00 a.m. Leo Mickiewicz

Saturday, April 25

8:00 p.m. Helene Swackhamar req. Joann & Bob Gardner

Sunday, April 26

8:00 a.m. Ann Kalafut req. Peter & Mary Cangelosi
 10:30 a.m. Richard L. Leatherwood req. Alison McColl
 12:15 p.m. Linnea Janks req. Mike Pennucci

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 19

EARTH DAY

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

Monday, April 20

Bulletin

2:00 p.m. Appointment (Away)

7:30 p.m. Fundraising Meeting (Office Center)

Tuesday, April 21

5:00 p.m. Radio Show (Away)

No Mass

Wednesday, April 22

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

1:00 p.m. Meeting (Diocese)

7:00 p.m. Pastoral Council Meeting (Office Center)

Thursday, April 23

10:30 a.m. Appointment (Away)

p.m. 1776 (Paper Mill)

Friday, April 24

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

Saturday, April 25

10:00 a.m. Appointment (Office Center)

1:00 p.m. Communion Call (Away)

Sunday, April 26

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

3:00 p.m. Visit Churches

REMEMBERED AT MASS



We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered in the Eucharistic Prayer: **Ben Lewis – Ceilia Simone – Kathryn Molloy – David Meade – Caroline Brailard – Victor M. Diaz – Frances Botti – Jon Cord – Michael Paccione – Essie Hardcastle – Joseph Ford – Lee Mills – Nevaeh Anthony – Mary DiGiovanni – Donald Sherman – Anthony Colaneri**

Deceased: **Joseph Ford**, father of Mary Connolly; **Lee Mills**, son of Anne and Rich Mills, friend of the Malone family; **Nevaeh Anthony**, daughter of John Pfeufer's friend; **Mary DiGiovanni**, friend of Mary Fakelmann; **Donald Sherman**, friend of the Livoti family; **Anthony Colaneri**, cousin of Al Sterphone. 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.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

COMPUTER RECYCLING

April is the month when we look to collect old computers. Depending on make, model and condition some are updated and given to those in need and others are recycled. If you have recently replaced your computer and don't know what to do with the old one, please consider dropping it off at the Carriage House during the month of April. (All hard drives are wiped regardless of whether the machine is rebuilt or recycled.) **Question call Earl at 908-832-2513 or email eroberts@ccsjn.org**

FOOD PANTRY

April 18 & 19

The weekend of April 18 & 19 is our Food Pantry weekend. Please help us restock our pantry for those who may call on us for assistance. Since most of what is donated will be kept in the pantry until Fall please limit your contributions to canned goods, cereal and pastas. Monetary donations may be made at any time using envelopes available at the Social Ministry station and the Social Ministry drop-box in the Narthex.

FREE EYEGLASSES

Please share with those who may benefit...Thanks (Resource forwarded from the Health Law Partnership) In case you have a child or know of someone who does (ages 12 and under), they can get a FREE pair of eyeglasses from Target:

Target is doing a special promotion for their optical service. It could end any time but will definitely end no later than April 29. Children 12 and under can get a free pair of glasses.

They need to bring in a valid prescription for glasses from their doctor and Target will let the child pick from about 40 different frames. They will place their best lenses in the frames which are non-glare and scratch resistant and normally sell for \$200.00.

There are no income guidelines. Any child 12 or under is eligible.

You can find stores with optical departments at www.target.com to confirm they are participating before making a trip to their store.

Please pass this information on to anyone who can benefit from this promotional offer. If you know someone with lost or broken glasses please share this information with them ASAP, as the promotion could end at any time. They would like families to come in as soon as they can.

SPRING GIVING TREE

Begins This Weekend

Our Spring Giving Tree is blooming in the Narthex. This year we are assisting The Center for Great Expectations, The Women's Crisis Center, Elijah's Promise and several local families. Please take a tag, sign it out and return the item on the tag to the Narthex or Seton Room with the tag affixed by Sunday, May 18. There is no need to wrap any item, however, gift cards should be placed in an envelope to

protect the magnetic strip. Your contribution will make a difference in someone's life!

SOME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of help in the following Social Ministry area:

1. We are looking for an individual or couple to coordinate our Food Distributions. Our next one will be in November for Thanksgiving. Please consider working on this important community outreach ministry. Deliveries of food are made at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter with food cards mailed in for July 4th to those on our list of people in need.
2. Someone is needed to visit with and take an individual out once a week.

If you can assist in any of these areas please contact Earl Roberts – 908-832-2513 or email eroberts@ccsjn.org.

PROJECT EARTH GARDEN



Tomato seeds have been planted in small peat pots and are available in the Narthex for those with a "green thumb" to take home and nurse into plants. Please sign out the pots so we know where they are going and return on

May 15 so they can be planted in the Project Earth Garden. Volunteers are needed to work in the garden planting, watering and weeding. Please use the volunteer sheet in the bulletin or our website under "Forms & Responses" to sign up.

GENNESARET

May 15, 16, and 17

The 35th Gennesaret Retreat for the seriously ill will be held at the Vincentian Renewal Center in Princeton on May 15, 16, and 17 2009. You can help:

- by passing this information on to those who come in contact with the seriously ill or disabled people in the community
- praying for the retreatants
- writing a short note of encouragement for a retreatant. (*address it Dear Friend and send to 11 Anton Place, Aberdeen, NJ 07747*)
- sponsoring a retreatant (The retreat is free for the retreatants; however the cost to Gennesaret is \$140 per person which includes meals and lodging.)

Due to the anticipated closure of the Vincentian Center the scheduled October retreat will be held at the Xavier Center on the grounds of St. Elizabeth College. **If you have questions or would like to register please call Hilare Reinold 732-566-7237.**

NORWESCAP

NORWESCAP'S Career & Life Transitions Center for Women is having a ScrapBooking Fundraiser **"Girls Just Wanna Crop! Women Helping Women – the Glue that Holds Us Together."** This fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 2 from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Roman Jeweler's Renaissance Plaza, Flemington, NJ. Scrapbooking enthusiasts are invited to come out for a

creative and fun-filled day and to also support this vital community program. Instructional workshops will be available for the beginner scrapbooker! For those who register before 4/1 the cost to attend this event is \$50 and after 4/2 the cost will be \$55. Admission cost includes a continental breakfast, lunch and dinner. **For more information see flyer in the Narthex or to register, please call the Career & Life Transitions Center for Women at 908-835-2624 or contact online at careerlife@norwescap.org.**

NORWESCAP is a non-profit community action agency established in 1965 that creates opportunities for over 30k low-income people in northwest New Jersey by providing a large portfolio of self-sufficiency and emergency services.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

FIRST EUCHARIST

First Eucharist Session 6, April 25 at 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. in the Church Center.

FIRST EUCHARIST RETREAT

Wednesday, April 29, 4:00 p.m., Church Center

First Eucharist children are meeting for their retreat on Wednesday, **April 29** at 4:00 p.m. in the Church Center. A practice with parents will follow at 6:15 p.m. Parents are also invited to witness their child's renewal of baptismal promises at 6:00 p.m. in the Church Center.

FIRST EUCHARIST

Saturday, May 2, 11:00 a.m., Church Center

We will be celebrating First Eucharist on Saturday, May 2 at 11:00 a.m. A banner containing the photos of these children is now on display in the Narthex. Please keep our First Holy Communion children and their families in your prayers.

CPIII DAY OF REFLECTION

Saturday, May 9, 2:30 p.m., Church Center

The CPIII Day of Reflection is on Saturday, May 9 at 2:30 p.m. in the Church Center and grounds. The parents of our Confirmation Class of 2009 are busy creating the activities for this day. Please keep these families in your prayers as they journey together in faith.

BAPTISM PROGRAM

The Baptism program here at St. John's employs individuals or couples who minister to those seeking Baptism for their child. The work currently involves four program meetings a year and hosting individual or multiple baptisms following those programs during Saturday or Sunday Mass.

If you have a desire to work in this ministry serving the needs of those to be newly received in our faith, please use the bulletin volunteer sheet or email Earl Roberts at eroberts@ccsjn.org.



BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Friday, June 12, 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 – June 12 at 7:15 p.m. The deadline for signing up to attend this program is Friday – June 5. 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.**

STEWARDSHIP

SPONSORING ST. MARY'S PARISH

This Weekend

On March 14 - 15 we began a program of sending the proceeds from Shop Rite and A&P card sales on the third weekend of the month to St. Mary's Parish. Proceeds from sales next weekend will be donated to St. Mary's. You can see a picture of St. Mary's Church in the Narthex. Thanks to the 41 families who purchased \$5,600.00 worth of cards, we were able to donate \$280.00 profit, in addition to \$145.00 in cash donations. We sent a check for \$500.00 last month.

EASTER FLOWER REMEMBRANCES

Branter and Klacik Families
 Burns & DuBeau Families
 Michael A. Cortese
 Deceased Members of D'Armiento & Notaroberto families
 Deceased Members of the Dowhan & Donofrio families
 Henry Drucker
 The Estok Family
 Ann Harrison
 Maureen Infusino
 Ann & Joseph Kalafat Sr.
 Marta & William Kasznica
 Parents of Steve & Teri Kostiw
 Lewis Family
 Ed Lichtenstein
 Joanne Lyon
 Deceased Members of McCabe & Prosdocimi Families
 Oliver Murname
 Joseph Pojedinec Sr.
 Stan Sawczuk
 Joanna Marie Stemple
 Bartolo Testa
 Jane Wilmot

EVANGELIZATION

EVANGELIZATION TEAM

Our Evangelization Team is in search of a few new members. The team meets on the third Wednesday evening of the month to explore avenues and implement strategies to help all parishioners work together to become an evangelizing community: one that reaches out to welcome others, to share faith, to live by the gospel values and to foster renewal of community and society.

Evangelization is an ongoing commitment at St. John Neumann parish. Together, we are on a continuing journey, seeking always to renew and deepen our faith. At the same time, we reach out to welcome others who are searching for a church community in which their faith can grow. **If you have any questions or feel called to this ministry please respond using the bulleting volunteer insert or email Earl Roberts at eroberts@ccsjn.org.**

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 your faith.

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.***

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.

2008 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Continuing the Mission of Christ



Thank you to all who have contributed so generously to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. As our theme suggests, your gift is "Continuing the Mission of Christ" through the more than 30 ministries supported by the appeal. Every gift is important and every gift is greatly appreciated.

\$33,284.98 pledged from 146 families toward our goal of \$38,400. Thank you!

86.68% to goal

EASTER ECHOES

"What is this awesome mystery?"

The Paschal mystery that we celebrate for 50 days is a meditation on mystagogia. We luxuriate in this awesome and profound mystery. We let it pour all over us and seep into our very pores. It is like the quality of mercy "that is not strained, it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon this place beneath. It is twice blest: It blesseth him (her) that gives and him (her) that takes." William Shakespeare

As we journey through this mystery let us reflect on some real pronouns. This week it is MY. "My Lord and my God," is Thomas' reply to Jesus when at last he sees the nail prints. MY establishes a profound relationship. It can be the very selfish response of a child. "It is mine." It can also help us to identify a particular relationship as "my mother" or "my father." "My Lord" can indicate a subservience or a word of honor. MY imprints a mark, offers the defense and protection of something or someone. MY homeland, MY ethnic background, the love of MY life.

For Thomas it was an identification. An expression of faith. An insight into the awesome mystery that is the heart of the Paschal mystery. Enter into the mystery and make it "MY MYSTERY."

What is this awesome mystery
that is taking place within me?

I can find no words to express it;

my poor hand is unable to capture it
in describing the praise and glory that belong
to the One who is above all praise,
and who transcends every word...

My intellect sees what has happened,
but it cannot explain it.

It can see, and wishes to explain,

but can find no word that will suffice;

for what it sees is invisible and entirely formless,
simple, completely uncompounded,
unbounded in its awesome greatness.

What I have seen is the totality recapitulated as one.

received not in essence but by participation.

Just as if you lit a flame from a flame,

it is the whole flame you receive.

St. Symeon the New Theologian (949-1022)

Readings for the week of April 19, 2009

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Mk 16:15-20

Next Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48

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ADULT FORMATION

PONDERING PAUSES

from UN christian - What a new generation really thinks about Christianity . . . and why it matters.

by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons, pp. 21 - 22

"DISCOVERING UNCHRISTIAN FAITH"

Several months ago, I was browsing the religious section at a bookstore. As I stood there, checking out the titles, two young men and a young woman wandered into the same section. It was obvious that the three twentysomethings were not searching for books. They were hanging out, discussing life, and joking as friends do.

I was not particularly tuned in to their conversation, not really aware of what they were discussing until one of them said, "Oh, check this out. It's a Bible with a metal cover!" That caught my attention.

The young woman said, "What? What are you talking about?"

"Yeah, look. It's a Bible encased in metal."

"Huh? What's that for?"

"How the heck should I know? Maybe it's supposed to be indestructible. Let's see if it is." Then I heard the Bible hit the floor.

"I guess not!" they laughed, stuffing the battered book back on the shelf. I saw them shuffle off to another part of the store. Their conversation had already moved to a new topic.

My bookstore experience illustrates that Christianity's image problem is partly fueled by the unique characteristics of two new generations of Americans: Mosaics and Busters. Young adults enjoy challenging the rules. They are extremely - you might say innately - skeptical. Today's young people are the target of more advertising, media, and marketing than any generation before. And their mindset is both incredibly savvy and usually jaded.

I draw these conclusions not simply based on personal experiences but through my vantage point as a researcher. During my time at The Barna Group, our firm has studied social trends, lifestyles, and public opinion among more than two hundred thousand Americans. In this substantial amount of information, one of the most consistent findings is the gap between generations, and specifically the divide between those in their twenties and thirties and older adults. Clearly some generational differences are life-stage issues - natural chronological differences that affect virtually every generation at the same time during their development and maturation

(such as the way parenting changes a person's perspectives and lifestyle).

Yet I would caution you not to underestimate the widening gap between young people and their predecessors. Those who think that in due time Mosaics and Busters will "grow up" and look like everyone else should prepare to have unfulfilled expectations.

Rather than looking for an end to the generation gap, it is important to recognize its existence, because it can help us understand the thoughts that Mosaics and Busters have about Christianity. (*to be continued*)

THE YEAR OF ST. PAUL

"An Impossible Freedom" by Holly Peterson

"For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery." (Gal. 5: 1)

Freedom: probably one of the most misunderstood words in any language. How often we use this word without understanding the depth of what it signifies, and yet Saint Paul writes that it is precisely for the possibility of freedom that Christ came. The common reduction of the word freedom became clear one day when I asked my high school students to share their ideas of freedom. What ensued was a string of "no's"; no responsibilities, no school, no obligations, no parents around, etc. But, when I asked them to describe a moment when they felt free, they responded with a myriad of experiences; getting a license, going away with friends, completing a big project, or skiing in the Sierra Nevada's. They were free in moments when they were *engaged* with life and responded to their obligations! How true it is that when we look at our experience of freedom, being free usually implies an engagement with reality and not an idea about reality or what it is for. Paul writes that freedom is what Christ came for, what he acted on our behalf for, so that we might know him and really live! Knowing Christ doesn't bring us a freedom for a moment or a day or a weekend, but a freedom that is possible always, in every day, in every moment. The taste of freedom we begin to experience in the mundane and not so mundane details of our life lived *with* him leaves us not slaves, but free men and women. He set us free from the slavery that tells us we can achieve happiness alone with our ideas of success, achievement, or acquisition. He came to help us see that ultimately freedom is the fulfillment of the infinite needs that constitute us, which can only be filled with something infinite!

Thank you, Lord, for using your freedom to help me understand that my only hope for profound happiness is in you. Free me from the slavery of the solitude that comes from not following you but my own ideas of happiness.

ADULT FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP

Sunday, May 3, 9:00 a.m., Valley View

Jesus said, **"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."** Has the Resurrection of Jesus really affected our lives? Come and join the discussion on living the abundant life in Christ on May 3 at 9:00 a.m. in Valley View School cafeteria.

CATECHESIS

“THE WORD OF GOD in the life and mission of the Church”

Second Sunday of Easter

Focus: “From Fear to Faith”
“We share in Jesus’ victory over death”

Scripture: Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you . . .
“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”
Thomas said to the others, “Unless I see the mark of the nail in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

John 20: 19-31

Reflection: What are the fears that keep me from a deeper faith? What does the greeting “Peace be with you” mean to you?

Song: “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” #420

Story: “Faith of which I’m certain...”

Two times two is four; two times three is six; two times four is eight . . . — of that, I am positive.

When I put gasoline in my gas tank, my car will run — that I know.

When I strike a certain combination of keys on the piano, I create music — I’ve learned how to do that.

In such knowledge and experience there is certainty. Real certainty does not require hope. I don’t need to “hope” two and two equals four. But I do need to hope that my belief —well-founded, to be sure — that my spouse loves me is grounded in reality and is not an illusion. Some might argue that my spouse’s love for me is something I want to believe in, to console myself in this lonely life. I might not be able to conclusively disprove this — but I believe I have quite solid grounds to believe in the reality of my spouse’s love for me, a love that transcends feelings, feelings which may vary from day to day.

Many nonbelievers equate faith with certainty, or with a desire for explanations: how the world came to be, why the good suffer, what we are here for. And some who consider themselves “believers” make superstitious use of religion — but few serious believers think of faith that way.

For men and women of “faith,” real faith is a perception, a way of looking at life, a form of gratitude — and very far from anything like explanation or certainty. Faith is the hope that God’s love is different, that whatever our limited love may be, God’s love is perfect, complete, unconditional. God’s love shows itself in the covenant with Israel, in the Incarnation, in Jesus’ teaching and death for us, in the hope of resurrection, in what we are asked to become.

Our relationship with all of this has to do with hope, not certainty; our faith is an ability to see and hear and behold our life and our world that enables us, in the midst of doubts and uncertainty, to trust.

[From “Reasons for Our Hope” by John Garvey, *Commonweal*, August 15, 2008.]

In today’s Gospel, Thomas is looking for certainty, but Jesus offers him something else: a reason to hope, a base line for belief, a prism for looking at the world with gratitude for what has been and what will be. The Risen One is the manifestation of such promise and hope: that we are loved, that our lives matter, that we are becoming the people God made us to be. Oh, there are our “Thomas” moments of doubt when we are not sure where or how to proceed, when we question our own motives and the motives of others, when all seems lost and pointless. But the gift of faith is the ability to hope that we can transform and remake, re-create and re-focus, our lives in the love of God and in the life of the Risen Christ. May this Easter, especially in these difficult times, illuminate our spirits with the light of such hope.

Connections, April 2009

OPERATION RICE BOWL 2009

Jesus Christ is risen! Our Operation Rice Bowl journey has ended but working towards global solidarity doesn’t have to. Let us continue to **pray** for all those who work for justice and for those who benefit from the programs of Catholic Relief Services, and continue to **learn** how to stay connected with our global family through Catholic Relief Services. Take some time to visit www.crs.org. Operation Rice Bowl boxes can be dropped in the Operation Rice Bowl collection box in the Narthex, brought to Religious Education classes or to the parish Office Center. Thank you for taking part in the Lenten journey with Catholic Relief Services’ Operation Rice Bowl.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FUNDRAISER GERTRUDE HAWK

Thank you to all who participated in our Gertrude Hawk Easter candy fundraiser! We cleared a profit of \$742.35 between the regular and online orders. Thanks for helping us continue to make our programs vibrant.

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PARISH NEWS

HOLY WEEK PREPARATIONS

Many thanks for the help mediate and immediate for the Holy Week celebrations.

First, thanks to **Abbott Gerard Laird**, O.S.B. of St. Mary's Abbey in Morristown who regularly helps out at St. Joseph's in High Bridge for celebrating the Easter Vigil. I did not think that I could survive up and down; in and out; and the length of time. I am having some kind of leg and back problems.

The environment was prepared by **Anthony and Linda Furnari-Rose, Fran Barbone, Mary Cangelosi, Joe and Mary Sima, Lise Feller, Fred Heimall, Lou and Liz Livoti, Elizabeth Lacy, Rita Price, Mike, Annette, Jonathan and Daniel Uss, Barbara Gates and her mother Mrs. Peligrina.**

Those who cleared the church, ordered the flowers and arranged the worship aids.

The Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Bell Choir and altar servers. **Roger and Patrick Malone** took care of the fire, yet again; and what a blaze it was.

The Office staff, the music ministry and all who organized and rehearsed.

If I have forgotten you it is because my mind memory is failing. You are all there in my heart and Gods' eyes. I am truly grateful.

SOME REAL DIFFICULTIES

Though people usually show up, people don't let you know they are coming and this makes the pastor nervous as there is less and less than I can accomplish. Some say that we can count on them but this does not allay the anxiety.

Only one person signed up for Keeping Vigil, yet many of the same people faithfully come each year. Also we can't expect one person to represent the whole parish.

We have the bulletin, the phone, the email, the Web-site and voice mail. Do we have another way of addressing this issue? Someday things will not be done and then maybe we will have some reaction.

MASS TIMES

When we first started Masses at St. John's we had to work around the times of Services at our host Protestant Churches. We were at the Califon Methodist Church. Our Mass times were 5:30 p.m. on Saturday evening and 9:30 a.m. Sunday. In the summer since they had an earlier Service we changed the time to 9:00 a.m. and kept it that way because when you do something once in the Catholic Church it becomes a "TRADITION" and that stays in people's minds forever. (At Christmas we get calls asking when is Midnight Mass because the last Mass on Christmas Eve in some churches started to be 10:00 but they still called it Midnight Mass).

In September 1983 we began Mass at the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church at 12:30 p.m. because that was the earliest that we could have a later Mass with the timing of their Service. (Some people still think it is 12:30 p.m. for the same reason as above.) When, after seven years, we had our own Church we could decide what times would best work for our community. Time for Religious Education also had to be figured in with the time of Masses. People wanted

a prime time Mass. We changed our times to 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon in December 1990.

In the Spring of 1992 we evaluated Mass times again. Through a long process we discovered that people were voicing their desire for Religious Education time and not Mass times (some did not even go to Mass). On July 4 and 5, 1992 we changed our schedule to 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. for the summer. On September 12 - 3, 1992 we changed the 9:00 a.m. Mass to 8:00 a.m. - to accommodate Religious Education from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m..

Our Mass schedule has been looked at once before in the early part of the 21st century because of my health issues. I improved and so we kept the 4 Masses even though we did not have help on the weekends. FOR THE MOST PART THE SCHEDULE WAS KEPT FOR CONVENIENCE.

We are at a new crossroads - participation numbers. Less people are coming to Mass. Many families leave after the celebration of Confirmation of their last child. Some no longer come because of the Priest Scandal. Some have just got out of the habit. Some don't see the value of weekend worship. There are less families and less religious education students. Christmas 2008 and New year's 2009 the 2 Masses on the day of the feast were small. I decided that next year we didn't need two Masses and felt that an 11:00 am Mass would serve the needs of the people. I thought it might be best to revisit the weekly mass schedule as well.

SO MUCH FOR THE HISTORY - Still no insight into the "mystery."

I have been consulting with the Staff - Pastoral Council and the Religious Ed. Advisory Board about returning to 3 Masses on the weekend. There are some costs involved - difficulty in procuring Liturgical Ministries and the inability to procure weekend assistance which however would increase the costs that are part of these deliberations. We are therefore proposing 3 Masses on the Weekend. We have some options that I will propose for your consideration and then get feedback at Weekend Masses. Feel free to email your thoughts as well or send them to the parish or speak to Staff, Religious Education Board and Pastoral Council members.

THE OPTIONS: The Saturday 5:30 p.m. is a given. There is some desire to change it to 5:00 but that has some scheduling problems for other things on Saturday - Weddings and Sacramental Catechesis.

1. 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (Religious Education would be from 9:30 to 10:45)
2. 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (Religious Education from 10:00 to 11:15)
3. 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (Religious Education from 9:00 to 10:15 - students and families would have to go to 5:30 or 8:00 or wait around until 11:00 Mass.

When we considered this at the Pastoral Council a few years ago someone said just change it Father - you are the boss (he is an old time Catholic as you can see - those days are gone).

DIALOGUE AND DISCUSS. It is not a voting process but a dialogue and consensus model. We should all come to a mutual solution. Don't think convenience for yourself but for the good of the community - what works best for all. We would be looking to start this change at the beginning of July. Somewhere along the line I will poll the Masses for a couple of weeks.

Thanks for your consideration.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SEEKING MEMBERS

The St. John's Property Management Committee is looking for parishioners who might be interested in becoming a member of the Property Management Committee. Committee meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of the month and any interested parishioners would be welcome to attend one and see what the committee is all about. The next meeting is next Tuesday, April 21. If you know you will be coming give Sharon a call and let her know. Or if you have any questions about the committee, call or email Sharon (sjanks@ccsjn.org) in the office or Andy Kozlowski (andyk_00@yahoo.com) who is now the current Chairperson for the committee.

PASTORAL COUNCIL RADIO INTERVIEW

Tuesday, April 21, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Be sure to tune in to WDVR radio at 89.7 and 91.9 FM on Tuesday, April 21 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. to hear Father Bill and members of the Pastoral Staff from St. John's Pastoral Council who will be interviewed. **Listener calls will be taken at 609-397-1620.** Listen on line at www.wdvrfm.org.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

March 18, 2009

A complete copy of the minutes is available on the Parish website at www.ccsjn.org under Pastoral Council.

- The Evangelization sub-committee of the Pastoral Council met on March 13 and discussed ways to reach out to new parishioners, as well as identifying and contacting people in need. Declines in parish population, Mass attendance, religious education, and population of youth in the parish were also discussed. The group will meet again on April 17.
- In June, **Kevin Dean** will take over as chair of the Pastoral Council, with **Bill Harrison** as co-chair. **Pam Casserly** and **Eileen Papson** will share the secretary responsibilities.

PASTORAL COUNCIL DISCERNMENT

Monday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.

Three new Pastoral Council members will be needed this May. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Pastoral Council, or would like to find out more, please come to the discernment session on Monday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m. Location to follow. All are welcome! Additional information is also available on the parish website under "Pastoral Council" on the left side. Click "Membership" for the **2009 Prospective New Member Guide**.

STEAMER POWER

We are looking to purchase a hand steamer to clean the cushions and chairs in the Worship Space. I have googled but find only models for floors not furniture. Does anyone have any experience with these or know where we can look for possibilities to make this job easier?

If they could be cleaned as soon after the stains have happened it may be less arduous. Please call the office.

HISTORY COMMITTEE NEWS

Needed: photos of the 25th anniversary celebrations: concert, Mass, picnic for archives and book. We hope to complete our work by the end of Summer 2009. Interviewees: Thank you for your patience. The next meeting will be in mid-May.

FUND RAISING

WILD WEEKEND OF WINNING

Friday/Saturday -- June 5/6

6 Opportunities! (WATCH THIS COLUMN)

Tricky Tray – Friday 6:00 p.m.

- Hundreds of prizes
- Help is needed NOW to solicit for prizes (see tear out)

Silent Auction – Saturday 5:00 p.m. (through the evening)

- Come join our committee (see tear out)
- Still looking for a chair
- Duties to include incorporating a 'buy it now' process

Wine/Beer/Cheese Tasting – Saturday 5:00-7:00 p.m.

- As popular as ever!

Dinner Dance – Saturday 7:00 p.m.

- Catering by Oscars of Califon (Victorian Square Mall)
- Mike Griffin's lively dance band
- Seating will be limited
- Buy your tickets after Mass OR contact Anita Sawczuk at 908-832-7746
- \$50 each; and \$25 'add-on' for wine/beer/cheese tasting

The Golden Ticket 50/50 – drawing on Saturday

- Win up to \$50,000
- Tickets are limited – will only sell up to 2000
- \$50 (buy one, buy many, partner with friends)
- Buy early so we may progressively assess our success
- On sale after Masses OR contact Judy Ross (908-439-3010) or Karen Porto (908-832-9820)
- Number of tickets already reserved = 41

Fab Five Raffle – Saturday

- 1- 42" LG LCD HDTV (value: \$1200)
 - 2- Shoprite Gift Card (value: \$500)
 - 3- Wii Console and Wii Fit Bundle (value: \$450)
 - 4- Asus Netbook PC (value: \$350)
 - 5- Flip Ultra Camcorder (value: \$170)
- Raffle tickets will be mailed to Parishioners soon!!

SHOP RITE & A&P CARDS

We had **17 families** purchase Shop-Rite and A&P gift cards last weekend, for a total of **\$2,075.00** with **\$103.75** coming to St. John's. 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. Gift cards rank third in fund raising only beaten by the Auction and total Craft Show. Gift card profits this weekend will be sent to St. Marys Coeburn.

BASKETS, COOKBOOKS AND BIBLES

In the echo of the 25th anniversary celebrations we are offering custom-made Longaberger baskets in two sizes with green trim and pewter crosses on the rim and a "Celebrate" tag. They are on display and available for purchase in the Narthex. The Tea Basket is \$50.00 and the Medium Market Basket is \$106.00. Twenty-five percent of the basket's price will be donated to St. John's. **Contact Kristin Gemma at 908-859-1353 or kgemma@verizon.net if you have any questions.**

25th Anniversary Cookbooks of desert recipes are also located in the Narthex. You can just pick one up for \$15.00. They don't have to be ordered.

You will also find Bibles available in the Narthex as well.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SUMMER ACADEMY AT THE MOUNT!

Summer enrichment camp program at Mount Saint Mary Academy, 1645 Highway 22, Watchung, for girls entering grades 6,7 & 8. It will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., June 2 - 26 and June 29 - July 2. See www.mountsaintmary.org for details or contact Donna Venezia Toryak, Director of Admissions, 908-757-0108 x 4506, dtoryak@mountsaintmary.org.

WEEKEND RETREAT FOR SEPARATED/DIVORCED

June 12-14, Newton, NJ

A weekend retreat for separated or divorced individuals will be held on June 12-14 in Newton, NJ by a Franciscan retreat team. **For more information, call Fr. Tom Kelly, OFM at 973-985-9736 or Deacon Milt 973-271-5097.**

AMERICAN GIRL FASHION SHOW

Now casting models!

Attention all American Girl Fans! Join Immaculate Conception School of Clinton for our 3rd Annual American Girl Fashion Show. We are currently casting models for our show to be held November 15, 2009 at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Show times are 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 5:00p.m. Girls size 10 (height 52-56 inches) are needed to model. Please visit our web site at www.icsclinton.org/agfs for model applications or email us at agfsvolunteers@yahoo.com. The application deadline is April 28, 2009. Come show us your sparkle and style!

DIOCESAN NEWS

ANNUAL FIREFIGHTERS MASS

Sunday, April 26, 12:00 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral, Metuchen.

The Diocese of Metuchen Annual Firefighters Mass will be held on Sunday, April 26, 12 noon at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral, Metuchen. This mass will honor all active, retired and deceased firefighters within the Diocese. All firefighters and their families are invited. A reception will follow the Mass. We will recognize all fire departments that will be celebrating significant anniversaries this year. Please let us know if your department is among them. **For information, visit www.diometuchen.org or call (732) 562-2461.**

FESTIVAL OF SACRED MUSIC

Sunday, April 26, 4:00 p.m., Our Lady of Mount Virgin, Middlesex

The Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Initiatives and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen invite you to attend a Festival of Sacred Music on Sunday, April 26 at 4:00 p.m. The concert will be held at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church located at 600 Harris Avenue in Middlesex. The following choirs will be participating: Christ United Methodist Choir, Piscataway; First Presbyterian Choir, Middlesex; Our Lady of Mount Virgin Choir; St. Joseph Spanish Choir, Bound Brook; St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Choir, Hillsborough; and St. Paul Episcopal Choir, Bound Brook. **For more information and directions, call 732-356-2149 or visit www.olmv.net.**

CALLING ALL ANGELS

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen is calling on **you**, to become a resource parent to one of New Jersey's 11,000 children in the foster care system. Children of all ages and backgrounds are in need of loving, nurturing homes. Many of these children are innocent victims of abuse and neglect. **CALL TODAY! 1-866-247-HOME (4663). You Can Help!!**

NOW THAT SPRING IS UPON US!

April 24 - 26, 2009



Shake off those winter blahs and pump some new life into your marriage. Make a Marriage Encounter Weekend and re-discover the romance of your relationship.

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held **April 24 - 26, 2009**

Early registration is advisable as space is limited.

Phone **1-888-827-NJME** for registration and information.

Visit us at: www.wwmecentralnj.org for more information.

2008 BREAD & ROSES BALL

Saturday, April 25, Bridgewater Marriott

The Bread & Roses Ball will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at the Bridgewater Marriott in Bridgewater, NJ. **Michael J. Foxx**, a parishioner of St. Charles Borromeo in Skillman will be the recipient of the **2009 Immanuel Award**. **Marcella G. Hanafin**, who will receive the **Founder's Award**, is a parishioner of Holy Trinity in Bridgewater and attends daily and weekend Mass at St. Bernard of Clairvaux, also in Bridgewater. The proceeds from this event help support the social service programs of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen in Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren Counties.

This year, back by popular demand, is Monte Carlo style gaming. In conjunction with the Bread & Roses Ball, a **50/50 Raffle** is being held. Raffle tickets are \$25 each. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold with the prizes awarded as follows: **1st prize - 25%, 2nd prize - 15% and 3rd prize - 10% of the total.** The winner need not be present to win.

For any questions or details on underwriting and sponsorships or to order dinner tickets or raffle tickets, please call 732-562-2438 or email www.breadandroses09@diometuchen.org

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE FOR SENIORS

Begins Wednesday, April 29



The Family Life Office of the Diocese of Metuchen is pleased to announce that an eight-week Bible Study Program for Seniors will begin Wednesday, April 29 through Wednesday, June 17 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center in Piscataway. Emphasis is on the New Testament, stressing the four Gospels, selected letters of St. Paul and an introduction to the Lectio Divina. Winifred Klimek, M.A. will facilitate the series. Please journey with us on this unique trip through the Bible. A nominal fee of \$5.00 per session is requested. **To register, call 732-562-1990 ext. 1624.**

RESPECT LIFE

“Commenting on Washington State voters’ approval of physician-assisted suicide, the State Medical Association voiced its opposition “because our training and experience in the practice of medicine directs us to heal and comfort, not cause death” *NRL News*, Nov.-Dec. 2008

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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
IT2 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
CW5, 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, U.S. Air Force
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
PC2 Quinn, Lisa, U.S. Navy
1st Lt. Rautenberg, Erik, Army National Guard
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
Captain 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.**

STEWARDSHIP – TIME & TALENT

SHARING GOD’S GIFTS

Stewardship Thoughts



“Peace be with you.’ This is Jesus’ Easter greeting to his terrified disciples. He breathes his own Spirit of reconciliation into them, giving them power to be merciful. Divine Mercy, which we celebrate today, takes many forms. For instance, our polluted air and land and water surely need some form of mercy. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has an Environmental Justice Program, which you can read about at <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp/> or inquire by phone, 202-541-3180. Named “Caring for God’s Creation,” the program calls Catholics to greater reverence for creation, providing educational resources for parishes and dioceses. Prepare to celebrate Earth Day on Wednesday by visiting its Web site, where you will find links to official letters and documents on the environment by the Bishops. Be an agent of reconciliation with God’s creation.” One of the most important parts of stewardship for us today is the stewardship of the land, air and water. Recycling is one of the greatest challenges in my book because we are so used to just throwing things away that we do it automatically. It is even worse when there are no containers for recyclables. For me this is one of the simplest forms of environmental awareness. It takes a lot more effort to work on individual pollution and thinking “green.” One of the most impressive billboards of years ago just shows a native American chief with a tear running down his cheek. We are doing a lot more than past years on this subject but we as individuals are challenged in more ways than one on how to put ourselves in the equation of environmental issues. This is a just stewardship that effects future generations and the very life of the planet. What do you do as your part?

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

OFFICE ANGELS

Monday, April 20	- M. & P. Nanna	p.m.
Tuesday, April 21	- D. Zigmantanis	p.m.
Wednesday, April 22	- Angel Needed	p.m.
Thursday, April 23	- B. Pannone	p.m.

SHOP RITE & A&P CARDS

April 18 & 19	- J. Lindabery	5:30 p.m.
	- V. Santoro	8:00 a.m.
	- V. Hoffard	10:30 a.m.
	- D. Hingos	12:15 p.m.
April 25 & 26	- C. Crescenti	8:00 p.m.
	- P. Sullivan	8:00 a.m.
	- C. Manbeck	10:30 a.m.
	- D. Hingos	12:15 p.m.

CHURCH CENTER WATERING SCHEDULE

Week of April 19	-	M. Cangelosi
Week of April 26	-	T. Menzie

CHURCH CENTER CLEANING TEAM

April 24	-	Team B
May 1	-	Team C

BULLETIN TRANSPORTERS

April 24	-	J. Murray
May 1	-	L. & H. Patterson

STEWARDSHIP - TREASURE

STEWARDSHIP SPIRITUALITY



“We are a Stewardship Parish sharing Time, Talent, and Treasure as a way of life.”

362 Families

**81 Time & Talent Responses, 73 Treasure Responses
31 Youth Responses**

The Christian community described in Acts understood and practiced total stewardship. St. Paul reports that the believers did not claim anything as their own, but held everything in common, and distributed to each whatever was needed.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

For Easter, 2008

212 Weekly Donors.....	\$19,685.00
Loose Money.....	\$201.00
Total.....	\$19,886.00
26 Special Collection (Holy Land).....	\$732.00

For Easter, 2009 (360 Families)

197 Weekly Donors.....	\$17,347.00
Loose Money.....	\$251.00
Total.....	\$17,598.00
37 Special Collection (Holy Land).....	\$1,015.00
7 Direct Deposit.....	\$600.00

For April 15, 2008

91 Weekly Donors.....	\$2,897.00
23 Monthly Donors.....	\$3,300.00
Loose Money.....	\$118.00
Total.....	\$6,320.00

For April 13, 2009 (360 Families)

57 Weekly Donors.....	\$6,954.00
Total.....	\$6,954.00
22 Direct Deposit.....	\$947.50
Weekly Need.....	\$7,034.00

Weekly Averages:

March.....	\$6,133.00
February.....	\$6,165.00
January.....	\$5,940.00
December.....	\$7,148.00
November.....	\$6,312.00
October.....	\$5,795.00
September.....	\$6,171.00
August.....	\$5,750.00
July.....	\$6,227.00
June.....	\$6,085.00
May.....	\$6,651.00
April.....	\$7,019.00

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

For April 12, 2009

Easter

1	2.00	=	4.00	34	100.00	=	3400.00
8	5.00	=	40.00	1	125.00	=	125.00
14	10.00	=	140.00	1	130.00	=	130.00
3	15.00	=	45.00	6	150.00	=	900.00
22	20.00	=	440.00	6	200.00	=	1200.00
21	25.00	=	525.00	4	250.00	=	1000.00
7	30.00	=	210.00	2	300.00	=	600.00
2	35.00	=	70.00	2	350.00	=	700.00
6	40.00	=	240.00	7	500.00	=	3500.00
45	50.00	=	2250.00	1	600.00	=	600.00
2	75.00	=	150.00	1	1000.00	=	1000.00
1	80.00	=	80.00	197		=	17,347.00

7 Direct Deposit - \$600.00

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 too 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/>



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/>

CALLERS WISHING TO REACH HELPLINE FOR ANY OF ITS SERVICES ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO REACH THE AGENCY BY DIALING 211. THEY NEED TO CALL 800-272-4360, 782-4357 OR 735-4357.

Haves ‘n Needs
Parish member? List either your Haves or your Needs on the parish website: www.ccsjn.org

New Eyes for the Needy
Donate your old eyeglasses in the Narthex.

St. Jude’s Ranch
Donate you Campbell Soup labels in the Narthex. See parish website for list of items.

Sponsor Child
Please remember Angel in your prayers, and drop your donation in the Jar at the Social Ministry Station. Don’t forget to write!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please complete ID Box and ✓ appropriate volunteer information section

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

Auction Weekend

- Auction Co-Chair
- Silent Auction Chair
- Silent Auction Committee Member
- Solicitors (for prizes from merchants)
- Kitchen Chair for Tricky Tray night

Questions? Call Rita Price: 908-832-2513
ritaprice@ccsjn.org

On-going Volunteer Opportunities

- Office Angels (5:00 – 8:00 p.m., one weeknight a month)
- Shop Rite & A&P Gift Card Sales (after weekend Masses)
- Church Center plant watering (approximately once a month)
- Church Center cleaning (Friday evening, once every 5 weeks)
- Bulletin transporter (Fridays, approximately once every 2 months)

Questions? Call Rita Price: 908-832-2513
ritaprice@ccsjn.org

Visit with/take out an individual once a week

Coordinate Food Distributions

I’m interested in joining the Baptism Preparation Team

I’m interested in joining the Evangelization Team