

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 22, 2009

Jesus said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home."

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, February 22 – Catholic Spirit Subscriptions

- 9:00 a.m. K-6 Catechesis (Valley View)
- 9:00 a.m. First Eucharist Parent Meeting (Valley View)
- 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

Monday, February 23 – St. Polycarp

- 7:30 p.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word Committee Meeting (Office Center)

Tuesday, February 24 – St. Luidhard

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

Wednesday, February 25 – Ash Wednesday

- 7:00 a.m. Mass/Ashes (Neumann Residence)
- 4:00 p.m. Service/Ashes (Church Center)
- 7:30 p.m. Mass/Ashes (Church Center)

Thursday, February 26 – St. Victor the Hermit

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

Friday, February 27 – Bl. Thalelaeus the Hermit

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

Saturday, February 28 – St. Gelasius

- 7:30 a.m. St. John Neumann Shrine Trip
- 8:30 a.m. Pastoral Council (Office Center)
- 9:30 a.m. Saturday Catechesis (Church Center)

Sunday, March 1 – Paving Our Yellow Brick Road

- 9:00 a.m. K-6 Catechesis (Valley View School)
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Formation (Valley View School)
- 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

MASS SCHEDULE February 28 & March 1

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
Lector D. Geerinck
Altar Servers Torczon/Geerinck Family
Ministers of the Eucharist L. Garcia, B. Garcia,
..... M. MacKenzie, D. Lance, J. Gardner

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
Lector A. Sawczuk
Altar Server Stanski Family
Ministers of the Eucharist J. Klawunn, T. Klawunn,
..... R. Pojedinec, S. Pojedinec, B. Gates

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
Lector G. Porto
Altar Server Malone Family
Ministers of the Eucharist B. Martalus, R. Martalus,
..... C. Zelesny, W. Zelesny, C. Carroll

Sunday 12:15 p.m.

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
Lector J. Murray
Ministers of the Eucharist R. Wickel, M. Wickel

PAVING OUR YELLOW BRICK ROAD

Next weekend there will be two collections. The collection after the communion of the Mass will be for paving the YELLOW BRICK ROAD OF OUR MORTGAGE. It is by your faithful giving to this collection and our fundraising that we are able to meet our mortgage payments of \$6,707 each month. Thank you your support. **Last month 114 families gave \$4,473.00.**

ASH WEDNESDAY

This Wednesday, February 25

Mass and Ashes - 7:00 a.m. - Neumann Chapel (590 Rt. 513) next to the Hickory Run Medical practice

Service and Ashes - 4:00 p.m. (Church Center)

Mass and Ashes - 7:30 p.m. (Church Center)

Ash Wednesday Reading Materials are available in the Narthex. Pick up a list of the regulations and opportunities for Lent. Do something special and only give up something to do something special. Share in the Rice Bowl Project. Why not eat healthy during Lent or what is good for you? Stop the junk and comfort food. Give what you save on what you do not eat to the Rice Bowl.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS start on Friday at 7:00 p.m.

THE CHURCH SUGGESTS

Not eating meat on Fridays of Lent.

Not eating meat and not eating between meals on Ash Wednesday.

Engage in works of charity.

Give money, food or clothing to the poor.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

God's presence in our world offers something new and unexpected. God no longer holds our sinfulness against us (CCC #1441-45), but offers us the opportunity of new life in Christ (CCC #1691-98). God's faithfulness to us (CCC #410-12, 422-29, 1647) and the gift of the Holy Spirit (CCC #687-747) open new possibilities for relationships with God and others. The sign of this new order is found in the wondrous healing acts of Jesus (CCC #547-50).



DISEASE AND SIN

"Do not deal unfairly," says the Lord. Christians are called to conduct their affairs fairly. If they do so, they will dwell securely in the land, according to the Lord. All creation belongs to God, and humans are pilgrims traveling through on their way home in God's heavenly reign. Here is not a lasting city. As a body of passersby, Christians set their sight on the glory of Christ's risen body. In Christ, members love God above all and their neighbors as themselves. With such love, how could one not deal fairly?

† REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS †

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, February 24

7:00 p.m. People of the Parish

Wednesday, February 25

7:00 a.m. People of the Parish

7:30 p.m. Sigmond DeHaas

Friday, February 27

7:00 a.m. Catherine Bohem & Family

Saturday, February 28

5:30 p.m. Gladys Clark req. Griffin Family

Sunday, March 1

8:00 a.m. Gerald LaSale req. Murray Family

10:30 a.m. Joan Lauler req. Altavilla Family

12:15 p.m. Glynn Cooper req. Tim Barrow

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 22

3:00 p.m. Visit Churches (Property Management Committee)

Monday, February 23

Bulletin

Tuesday, February 24

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

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

Wednesday, February 25

Ash Wednesday

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

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

4:00 p.m. Service & Ashes (Church Center)

7:30 p.m. Mass & Ashes (Church Center)

Thursday, February 26

10:30 a.m. Appointment (Away)

Friday, February 27

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

5:00 p.m. NYC

Saturday, February 28

8:30 a.m. Pastoral Council (Office Center)

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

REMEMBERED AT MASS

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered in the Eucharistic Prayer: **Charles Miksis – Kathleen McConnell – Jacqueline Maruca – Vernon Shaw – Linnea Janks – Jo-an Fairweather – Maureen Carse – Edward Hempling**



Deceased: **Linnea Janks**, daughter of Sharon and Alan Janks, **Jo-an Fairweather**, cousin of Eileen McCabe; **Maureen Carse**, friend of the Sterphone family; **Edward Hempling**. 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.

CATHOLIC SPIRIT SUBSCRIPTION

This Weekend

The passing of the baskets after the communion of the Mass this weekend will be for your subscription to the CATHOLIC SPIRIT, our Diocesan Newspaper. Extra envelopes will be found in the narthex along with copies of the CATHOLIC SPIRIT. Otherwise use the one in your boxed set.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

SOME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

1. We need someone to plan the layout and get certain plants started for spring planting for the Project Earth garden.
2. Drivers are needed to help in driving a senior for food shopping once a week.

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

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Tuesday, March 24, Wednesday, March 25 & Friday, March 27

Our parish will be supporting Spruce Run Lutheran Church for the Interfaith Hospitality Network. The Network provides temporary housing for families as well as individuals in need. The guests will be at Spruce Run from Sunday March 22 through Sunday April 5. Saint Johns is responsible for Tuesday, March 24, Wednesday March 25 and Friday March 27. Volunteers are needed for providing meals and/or hospitality. This is a great opportunity for service for families as well as individuals.

Each of our 3 days we need:

- 5:00- 8:00 p.m. hospitality
- dinners
- dessert
- 8:00- 10:00 p.m. hospitality
- 10:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m. overnight (Friday overnight is until 8:00 a.m.)

Look for sign up sheets in the bulletin and our website.

Please call Eileen Papson at 832-7290 with any questions. Or email at papson@comcast.net.

HUNTERDON LIFELINE

Today family caregivers are assuming a hands-on role with the personal and medical care of their loved ones. Family caregiving is an integral part of healthcare today. Help is available through the Hunterdon Lifeline Program.

Lifeline is an easy to use medical alert service designed to reduce the risk of living alone. Help is available with the push of a button. Hunterdon Lifeline ensures that adults living at home get quick assistance whenever it is needed.

Today many families consider Lifeline a necessity. That's because Lifeline provides quick assistance whenever personal support is needed especially in a medical emergency. This means many adults, individuals with physical challenges, and patients with medical conditions can live independently and safely at home with lifeline. For

family caregivers, the service provides peace of mind and reassurance knowing their loved ones can easily access help 24 hours a day, if help is needed.

If you or someone you know needs help contact Hunterdon Lifeline at 908-782-2562.

For information on other Hunterdon Health services check the link from the parish website home page www.ccsjn.org.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Would you like to do lunch? With Meals on Wheels, that is. Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon has provided "comfort food" to recipients since 1973; now we'd like you to join us. If you are over 60, homebound and/or have a disability, Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon can deliver a hot noontime meal Monday through Friday with weekend coverage if needed. Service can be short term until recovery or longer – or provide caregiver relief – depending on individual needs. Or – if you are able to – we invite you to join us at one of our Congregate Dining Nutrition Sites around Hunterdon County. Delicious meals delivered and served by warm and caring volunteers – what could be better? **If you or someone you know would benefit from the security and support of home delivered meals or congregate dining, contact Meals on Wheels today. Call 908-284-0735 for more information.**

FOOD PANTRY

The Easter food distribution is coming quickly in March 2009. Our donations to the local food banks and our Thanksgiving and Christmas deliveries seriously depleted the SJN food pantry. If each of us brings one non-perishable item to church each Sunday we could fill our pantry to overflowing by Easter. What do you say? One canned good each week. It's that simple.

A HUMOROUS THANKS

We received a thank-you letter this week from Carol Smith who handles public relations on behalf of the Hunterdon Developmental Center. It reads:

Dear Friends,

For those of you who know me well, you may have figured out that I have already broken one of my New Year's resolutions of 2009; that of not procrastinating!

It's already February and this thank-you should have been in your hands weeks ago! My excuses are many: - I took some time off. – I was overwhelmed with new job responsibilities. – The state no longer supplies desk calendars (budget cut item). – My Secretary had eye surgery. – The dog ate my rough draft.

I could go on forever, but, the truth of the matter is that after 10 years how can I still find the appropriate words to make you realize that the "joy" you bring to us year after year, is so very, very much appreciated!

I feel so truly blessed to know each of you and to know that you share in the mission of our Holiday Gift Program.

I know I only get to meet the contact person for many of the churches, offices and service groups etc., so please thank each and every person in your group who in some way contributed to the success of our program, and may the "joy" you bring to us surround you and yours tenfold! Know that you have made the world a better place.

Sincerely, Carol Smith

EVANGELIZATION

CATHOLIC REFERENCE

In this age of information overload it is often difficult to sort out the fact from the fancy, and misinformation. This is one of the reasons that Pope John Paul II promulgated a new major catechism the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" over twelve years ago.

A catechism is a text which contains the fundamental Christian truths formulated in a way that facilitates their understanding. There are two categories of catechism: major and minor. A major catechism is a resource or a point of reference for the development of minor catechisms. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is an example of a major catechism. The *Baltimore Catechism* is an example of a minor catechism.

The Pope pointed out that "Catechesis will find in this genuine, systematic presentation of the faith and of Catholic doctrine a totally reliable way to present, with renewed fervor, each and every part of the Christian message to the people of our time." While the catechism was intended for bishops, anyone who wishes to study the Catholic faith can find a fuller understanding. It was his hope that "through the harmonious and complementary efforts of all the ranks of the People of God, may this Catechism be known and shared by everyone..."

If you wish to consult this catechism you can find it online at www.usccb.org/catechism/ or you can order a hard copy of it through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website or call them between 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, at 800-235-8722.

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.



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
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

from Unchristian - what a new generation really thinks about Christianity. . . and why it matters
by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons

"David, I am quitting my job."

I couldn't mistake my friend Gabe Lyon's self-assured voice. "Really? Are you crazy?" I blurted out.

"Probably," he said, with the rounded edges of his slight Southern accent. "But I am sure it's the right time, and I have a clear sense that it's now or never. And God has given me a vision for what I am supposed to be doing." He paused and then said matter-of-factly, "I can't do it here."

"Well, what are you going to do, Gabe? Where are you going to work? You must have a plan. Do you have a company in mind?" (As a professional researcher, rarely do I have trouble coming up with questions. This moment was no exception.)

"I am not going to work for another company. I am going to *start* my own organization. It's going to be a nonprofit. I know I'll have to raise funds to make it work, but I want -"

I interrupted him. "But you're leaving a great job! You're being mentored by a widely respected Christian leader. It pays well. You have a chance of really helping a lot of people spiritually." Trying to persuade my friend to reevaluate, I urged, "You should really think about this before you make such a big change."

When I finished, Gabe was quiet. *Good*, I thought. He's *thinking about my advice*. I felt a glimmer of pride. *It was solid feedback*, I reasoned. Then after a few moments, I broke the silence, "Gabe? You there?"

"David." He spoke my name slowly. I could hear the frustration. "I have thought and prayed about this more than you know. My family is behind this. I am going to do this. I don't look back once I make a decision." He paused. "Will you let me explain what I feel God has been leading me to do?"

I couldn't think of much to say. "Yes, of course. . . sorry." "I am gonna sound crazy, I know, but I want to help a new generation of leaders understand the perceptions and images that young people have of Christianity - what people really think of us." He spoke thoughtfully and deliberately. "People have a lot of opinions about our faith, and every time I strike up a conversation with a friend or neighbor, it seems like those perceptions are incredibly negative, Let's face it - what people think becomes their reality, and although we may not deserve all those images, some of their thoughts about us may be accurate."

"Well, you're right about the negative perceptions," I said, mentioning some research my company had done on the subject. "But what do you think you can do?"

(to be continued)

THE YEAR OF ST. PAUL

2 Corinthians 1: 18-22

The second letter to the Corinthians is widely regarded today, not as a single letter written by Paul on one occasion, but as a collection of various letters written in the course of a major crisis in Paul's relations with the Corinthian community. According to this theory, our present passage comes from the letter Paul wrote when the crisis was over and the relationship with the community had been happily restored.

During the crisis Paul had twice changed his plans. First he had paid a lightning visit to the Corinthians, a visit that had ignominiously failed to bring them around. Then he had postponed visiting them again to give Titus time to straighten things out. This frequent change of plans gave rise to the charge that Paul was fickle and unstable. Paul defends himself (not, however, with the passion with which he had earlier defended his apostleship, but rather with a calm explanation) by arguing that his behavior has always been consistent. As usual, he goes back to first principles.

His behavior was affirmative because it was an expression of the gospel, which is itself affirmative. The gospel is God's affirmation of all his promises. This affirmative action of God comes to each Christian personally in the moment of sacramental initiation, to which Paul now refers. In this, God has established and commissioned us, put his seal upon us, and given us his Spirit as a down payment (*arrabon*; RSV: "guarantee") of our final salvation.

Reginald Fuller

- What has God given you to help with the Spirit of yes-saying?
- Paul says, "Jesus Christ...was not 'yes and no'; but in him it was always 'yes.'" How often do you say yes to life, to Christ, to the poor in the word? Jesus is always an expression of God's affirmation ("yes") to us; how can we become like him?

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

All are welcome to our next faith discussion group on The Cost of Discipleship. "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matthew 16:26) Come and join our discussion on **Sunday, March 1** in Valley View School cafeteria at 9:00 a.m.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

A parish Bible study group exploring the Seven Last Words of Christ will meet once a week during Lent, starting the week of February 22. The day and time will be determined by its members. **If interested contact Dr. Rose Fay ASAP at rosefay@ccsjn.org or 832-2162.**

A LENTEN GATHERING

Dr. Nick Viggiano, a retired chiropractor has offered to do a Lenten series. He can cover a variety of topics. His fax gives a general theme of ". . .and deliver us from needless anxiety and worry. . ." "How the mind and body works during these trying times. . ." One of the times I suggested was after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. I am sure that he would accommodate a topic that covers a variety of fields. "Human Personality/ Body- Soul-Psyche-Spirit/ The Human Organism / Being / Basic Primary Psychology / Natural Philosophy / Biology.

If you think you may be interested use the usual ways to respond - Phone - email - tear out sheet in the bulletin or on line. We need to know your interest and your availability before we schedule

WHY I L*VE LENT

The Weather Channel has a segment on WHY I L*VE WINTER. It is an advertisement on what to do in winter. It struck me that this would be a good theme for Lent 2009.

You can either read it as WHY I LOVE LENT! or WHY I LIVE LENT! So for Ash Wednesday and the First Sunday of Lent I invite you to think about why you live or love Lent. Let me get you started.

- I love Lent because it gives me hope that Spring is around the corner.
- I love Lent because there is a simplicity about the church environment.
- I love Lent because of the readings and reflections.
- I love Lent because of the Polish and German doughnuts that we prepare for Mardi Gras.
- I love Lent because of the foods that take the place of meat on Fridays.

Why do your Love or Live Lent? To add to the list, e-mail me or Kristin to include them in next week's bulletin.

RESPECT LIFE

The framers of the Declaration of Independence asserted that all human beings have inalienable rights, bestowed on them not by any human power, but by their Creator. Those who hold a more exclusionary view need to explain why we should divide humanity into those who have moral value and those who do not. This moral line-drawing poses a serious threat to the dignity and rights of other poor and vulnerable members of the human family who need and deserve our respect and protection.

Readings for the Week of February 22, 2009

Sunday: Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25/2 Cor 1:18-22/Mk 2:1-12
Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20--6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

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FUND RAISING

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.** Payment is by cash or check made payable to St. John's.

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.

SHOP RITE & A&P CARDS

We had **31 families** purchase Shop-Rite and A&P gift cards last weekend, for a total of **\$3,675.00** with **\$183.75** 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.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Friday, March 6, 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 – March 6 at 7:15 p.m. The deadline for signing up to attend this program is Friday – February 27. 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.**

FIRST EUCHARIST

First Eucharist Session 3 - Saturday, February 21, 3:30 p.m. in the Church Center

First Eucharist Session 4 - Saturday, March 21, 3:30 p.m. in the Church Center

CATECHESIS

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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Focus: New Beginnings
“Jesus has the power to forgive and heal us”

Scripture: “Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, pick up your mat and walk?’”

Mark 2: 1-12

Reflection: What paralyzes me is...Who carries me to Jesus for healing is... The new life I have received through the power of forgiveness is...

Song: “You are the Healing” #389

Story: Not all history majors are created equal...

The professor assigned his U.S. history seminar a ten-page research paper on Thomas Jefferson, due at the end of the semester.

One student went to work that very night. School work did not come easily to him; he had to work hard to keep up. He was a history major and his dream was to be a high school history teacher. Over the next few weeks he spent hours reading, making notes and rewriting his draft. He got a C for the paper. He made an appointment with the professor. The professor showed him both the strengths and weaknesses of the paper, where his analysis was faulty, what facts he failed to grasp. The student rewrote the paper and got his grade up to a B-plus.

Another student in the course was a member of a fraternity. One of the great perks of membership in the frat was access to an impressive archive of research papers written by students over the years, so the second student took a couple of papers on Jefferson, cut and pasted as needed, and submitted the paper. His grade: A-minus.

Now, the obvious moral here is that the first student learned more from the research assignment. But the first student learned much more than Jeffersonian democracy. He learned how to *learn*, how to think, how to reason. He was willing to fail in order to succeed.

The second student got a good grade in a course he quickly forgot about.

The experience of the two students mirrors the point of today's Gospel. With the help of his generous and compassionate friends, a paralyzed man comes to Jesus to be healed — but instead, Jesus (to the outrage of those who witness the event) forgives the paralytic his sins. Feeling better is the “easy A”; but to heal the brokenness of the soul and spirit, to treat the illness of our own sin and self-centeredness, to mend torn relationships, is to actually “write the paper,” and in the process become fully alive, fully human as God has made us to be. To be able to “pick up our mats” and walk is one thing — but God has called us to live in the light of his compassion and grace, regardless of our physical and mental abilities or limitations. Faith challenges us not to be satisfied with easy grades and merely feeling better but to take on the hard work of learning and seeking the wholeness of our souls and spirits.

Connections, February 2009

OPERATION RICE BOWL 2009

As part of our faith community's Lenten journey, we will again participate in Catholic Relief Services' program: Operation Rice Bowl. Since 1975, Operation Rice Bowl has inspired Catholics in the United States to **pray, fast, learn** and **give** as we increase our understanding of our global community. We will connect this understanding with the principles of Catholic Social Teaching throughout our Lenten journey. We encourage you to participate in Operation Rice Bowl at home with your family and loved ones. All **Sunday Religious Formation families** will receive a rice bowl with a calendar enclosed this weekend. We invite all others to pick up a rice bowl in the narthex at the Operation Rice Bowl display. More information on this Lenten program can be obtained at www.crs.org.

CATECHIST NEEDED

There is an immediate need for a seventh grade Confirmation Preparation catechist or assistant catechist. Classes meet twice a month on Sunday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Catechist is responsible for teaching a 1 hour class per meeting. All material and support will be provided. Answer the call of the Holy Spirit and share your faith with these young people as they journey towards Confirmation. **Contact Dr. Rose Fay at 832-2162 or rosefay@ccsjn.org.**

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

OFFICE ANGELS

Monday, February 23	- E. Vigilante	p.m.
Tuesday, February 24	- M. Nanna	p.m.
Wednesday, February 25	- Angel Needed	p.m.
Thursday, February 26	- Angel Needed	p.m.

SHOP RITE & A&P CARDS

February 21 & 22	- C. Crescenti	5:30 p.m.
	- P. Sullivan	8:00 a.m.
	- V. Hoffart	10:30 a.m.
	- D. Hingos	12:15 p.m.
February 28 & March 1	- E. McCabe	5:30 p.m.
	- K. Dabrowsky	8:00 a.m.
	- C. Zelesny	10:30 a.m.
	- D. Hingos	12:15 p.m.

CHURCH CENTER WATERING SCHEDULE

Week of February 22	-	J. Rojas
Week of March 1	-	L. Feller

CHURCH CENTER CLEANING TEAM

February 27	-	Team D
March 6	-	Team E

BULLETIN TRANSPORTERS

February 27	-	J. Stemple
March 6	-	A. Tagliareni

ST. JOHN'S WE HAVE A PROBLEM

I still want to believe that it was misplaced or accidentally thrown away, that is the Souper Bowl of Caring collection. There was a large manila envelope with four smaller envelopes inside for each Mass to place the contributions that were given to the Souper Bowl of Caring collection to aid Elijah's Kitchen in New Brunswick. All was well until after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 1. The envelope was put in place for the 12:15 p.m. Mass crew to retrieve. When they went for the envelope that was put there at 12 noon there was no envelope. After much searching, inquiry, and investigation it was determined that it was lost. All that remained was the contributions made at the 12:15 p.m. Mass. I still hope that it will turn up being misplaced or lost. (I like to think the best of people).

After the announcement at Masses this past weekend those who wrote checks said they would rewrite them. So we take you up on that promise. We also received an offer to cover the lost gifts that amount to over \$300.00. We will hold off on that offer until we see what the second checks will bring to the total. I hope that if they were taken that the person needed it for their own food needs and not for a big treat or to satisfy an addiction. I place it in God's hands. Thanks to your response to this catastrophe.

CHURCH ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE

As Lent is fast approaching and there is a need to change the Church environment with minimizing and color coordinating I am looking for some people who could help or indeed form an ongoing group to take care of this seasonal need.

If you are interested and can help please contact Fr. Bill by email, phone, tear out sheet from the bulletin or on line.

SNOW NEEDS

Thanks to all who have helped out with snow removal this winter.



When it snows on weekends we are in need of snow removal, ice salting and doorway clearing. Art takes care of the parking lot but can't get it all done especially for 8 am Mass. During Christmas this was very problematic.

Therefore before we look for a service to do this we are seeing if there are any parishioners who could lend a hand or if we are paying a parishioner who would

want the job. If this is not workable we are looking for referrals to some service company that could aid us. Please contact the office and speak with Sharon. Thanks.

CARE GIVER HELP AVAILABLE

Live-in care giver for elderly person available February 1

Hunterdon County or Plainfield areas. Great references
Call Vonnie at 908-832-2762 or 908-442-5275.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

January 21, 2009

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

- The Pastoral Council met with **Ann Germino** and **Earl Roberts** as representatives of Social Ministry. **Eileen Papon** is the liaison from the Pastoral Council. Ann discussed the SHIP ministry and Project Earth Garden. St. John Neumann's has participated in feeding the homeless in Somerville every second Monday for about 13 years. She noted that the participation has been fantastic, with a consistent flow of food. More food donations will be needed as the number of individuals needing this service has increased. Ann's primary goal for Project Earth at the start of this year's growing season is to get rid of the ground hogs! Over the past two years the garden has produced almost 1,000 pounds of fresh produce. Some of the vegetables are used for SHIP casseroles. Harvested produce is also donated to an organization near Pittstown called "Grow a Row for the Hungry" as well as NORWESCAP. Her needs at this time include moving the shed located inside the garden and getting more volunteers for the manual labor needed in preparing and harvesting the garden.
- Earl noted that the blood drive will be done once this year. **Liz Livoti** currently maintains the card ministry. Our food giving at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Fourth of July involves 25 families. The Christmas Giving Tree provided 197 gifts for seven institutions. The participation on the web site initiative, Haves and Needs, has slowed down over the past few months. **Nancy DeBeau** continues to organize gatherings at the nursing home. Our involvement with Fair Trade, the social justice leg of Social Ministry, is going very well. Earl is looking into becoming more involved in local social justice issues.
- Eileen and Earl discussed the current five year plan that Habitat for Humanity has for the Hunterdon/Somerset area. At this time eight homes are planned for Bridgewater, another in Franklin Township, Somerset County, and at the end of the phase one home in Kingwood Township. In order to be eligible for "building time," groups need to commit to pay for a portion of the home's cost of \$100,000. They are exploring the possibility of a sponsorship with other area churches. Eileen also discussed Interfaith Hospitality Network. We continue to assist Spruce Run Lutheran Church when they host guests. The next time we are responsible for helping is in March (3/24, 3/25 and 3/27/09).
- **Bill Harrison** is in the process of editing the video he took of the November Town Meeting presentation by Sr. Donna Ciangio, O.P. Technical issues have made this a cumbersome process. We hope to have it available for interested parishioners who were unable to attend.
- Three new members will be needed for the Pastoral Council in May 2009.

THANKS

To **Fred Heimall** for adding lights for the plow truck when backing up at night.

To **Al Sterphone** again for pitching in around here to help Art out with the day to day stuff and especially for the snow and ice removal.

To **Doug Hingos** for helping Art move some things around. A special thanks to **Mike Uss** and his son **Jonathan** who chopped away at the ice on the Plaza. It made it safe except for the kids who want to slide on the ice or not use the cleared area. The snow and ice are not always fun. "This too shall pass."

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.

\$31,489.98 pledged from 135 families toward our goal of \$38,400. Thank you!

82.01% to goal

COMMUNITY NEWS

BLOOD DRIVE

LEBANON TOWNSHIP FIRST AID SQUAD

March 7, 9:00 a.m., First Aid Squad

The New Jersey Blood Services and Girl Scout Troop 432 will be holding a Blood Drive March 7, 2009 from 9:00am to 2:30pm at the Lebanon Township First Aid Squad on Hill Road. Please consider donating the "Gift of Life". For more information or to make an appointment to donate, please call 1-800-933-2566.

Walk-ins welcome. Each donor will receive a Johnson&Johnson first aid kit and a chance to win a \$50 gift card, movie tickets, and 4 box tickets to a 2009 Somerset Patriots Game.

DIOCESAN NEWS

CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS FOR 2009-2010

Deadline is Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Applications for financial aid through the Diocese of Metuchen Tuition Assistance Program for the 2009-2010 school year are now available at all diocesan elementary and secondary schools. Completed applications must be received by Private School Aid Service by no later than Tuesday, March 31, 2009.

To obtain an application form, please contact the principal or main office of the school where the student is registering. A printable version of the form, both English and Spanish, is also available on the diocesan website.

SAVE THE DATE - 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.

JUBILEE YEAR OF ST. PAUL

Saturday, March 14, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

We invite you to participate in once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate the 2000th anniversary of the birth of St. Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles, here in the Diocese of Metuchen! A "Bilingual Conference on St. Paul" will be held on **Saturday, March 14, 2009, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at St. Magdalen de Pazzi Church in Flemington.** Workshops will include an English Tract or Spanish Tract, with several guest speakers and a keynote address by **Fr. Bruce Nieli**, a Paulist priest, and former Director of Evangelization for the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. Liturgical celebrants will be **Bishop Paul Bootkoski** and **Bishop Emeritus Edward T. Hughes.** To register go to www.diometuchen.org or call Pat Martin at 732-562-1990 ext. 1310. Deadline for registration is March 4.

STEWARDSHIP

SHOPPING FOR DOLLARS

This is a perfect time to buy ShopRite and A & P dollars for your food shopping. The Stewardship committee would like to get as many parishioners as possible "Shopping for Dollars." Stop by the Shopping for Dollars table in the Narthex or the Office during the week to pick up the cards. Use them yourself or give them as gifts. Shopping dollars are always the right size and color. They are easy to buy and use and St. John's gets 5% of every dollar sold. This is a very simple fund-raising activity that everyone can participate in with the minimum of effort.

PASTORAL COUNCIL EMAIL ADDRESSES

Phyllis Baker p.baker@patmedia.net
Pam Casserly..... pamcasserly@gmail.com
John Cole..... johncole@nac.net
Mary Connolly mandmconnolly@gmail.com
Kevin Dean..... Kevin.Dean@VerizonWireless.com
Bill Harrison..... hotelcalifon29@hotmail.com
Fr. Bill..... jwmickiewicz@ccsjn.org
Eileen Papson..... papson@comcast.net
Pam Stewart..... apstewart@att.net
Dana Wilson..... wilsdana@hotmail.com

STEWARDSHIP – TIME & TALENT

SHARING GOD’S GIFTS

Stewardship Thoughts



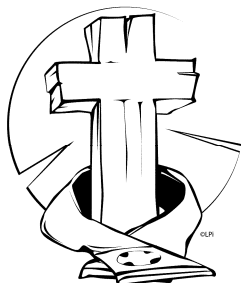
“In today’s Gospel, Jesus heals the paralyzed man when he sees the faith of those who lower the man through the roof. Friends in faith help us receive the healing power of Christ, and we express our Christian solidarity through our prayers for one another. When we call on the healing

power of prayer from our community, we act on our faith that the Church is a communion in love. Creating a prayer tree is one way to make an act of faith in the power of intercessory prayer. This is a list of the names and phone numbers or e-mail addresses of family and friends, and parishioners who agree to pray for one another. The list is copied and distributed to each participant. When someone needs prayer, you simply call or e-mail one person on the list and they contact the next, and so on. Don’t forget to use the prayer tree to give thanks as well.”

At the welcoming ritual for new parishioners we ask the new members if they are willing to give their time in worship and prayer for this community. The community offers their welcome and prayers and asks the new parishioners to give their time in weekend worship and prayer. Stewardship is about being aware and committed to one another. The gift of ourselves, our time and concern is essential for a community to take root and be nourished. This may be a simple statement and response. However, do you hear the petitions that are added by individuals at the General Intercessions? Do you look at the list of names on the sick list? We could be praying all day if we took these individually. People really are consoled when we say that we will pray for them. It means we will keep them close to our hearts and remember them at the altar and the prayers we offer during the day. This is time well shared in good stewardship.

STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES

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



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**

Forgiveness, too, is a gift from God. Freed from the paralysis of sin, the man in today’s Gospel was able to stand and give witness to the power of God. How do I let sin cripple me? Am I a good steward of the gift of God’s forgiveness?

FINANCIAL UPDATE

For February 17, 2008

75 Weekly Donors.....	\$2,159.00
26 Monthly Donors.....	\$3,020.00
Loose Money.....	\$83.00
Total.....	\$5,262.00
77 Special Collection (Campaign for Human Dev)	\$1,960.00

For February 15, 2009 (360 Families)

84 Weekly Donors.....	\$2,486.00
25 Monthly Donors.....	\$2,370.00
1 Child.....	\$5.00
Loose Money.....	\$66.00
Total.....	\$4,927.00
55 Special Collection (Campaign for Human Dev)	\$1,100.00

19 Direct Deposit..... \$835.00

Weekly Need \$7,034.00

Weekly Averages:

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
March.....	\$6,845.00
February.....	\$7,126.00

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

For February 15, 2009

Weekly		Monthly	
1	3.00 = 3.00	1	10.00 = 10.00
6	5.00 = 30.00	1	20.00 = 20.00
9	10.00 = 90.00	2	40.00 = 80.00
1	14.00 = 14.00	3	50.00 = 150.00
2	15.00 = 30.00	2	60.00 = 120.00
21	20.00 = 420.00	1	70.00 = 70.00
1	22.00 = 22.00	2	75.00 = 150.00
11	25.00 = 275.00	2	80.00 = 160.00
6	30.00 = 180.00	5	100.00 = 500.00
7	35.00 = 245.00	1	120.00 = 120.00
3	40.00 = 120.00	1	130.00 = 130.00
1	45.00 = 45.00	1	150.00 = 150.00
8	50.00 = 400.00	1	160.00 = 160.00
2	75.00 = 150.00	1	200.00 = 200.00
1	77.00 = 77.00	1	350.00 = 350.00
1	90.00 = 90.00	25	2370.00
1	95.00 = 95.00		
2	100.00 = 200.00		
84	2486.00		



DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February, 2009

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord,

Shortly, we will be embarking upon our annual Lenten Season. It is a time for us to assess our lives and endeavor to come closer to the Lord. It is a wonderful liturgical season when the Church gives us opportunities to reflect on how we are living our faith and can renew our spirituality.

Considering the difficult economic times we are experiencing, this Lent I ask each one of you to join me in doing whatever we can to help our brothers and sisters, not only the poor who are always with us, but also those who are suffering because of the recession. This means performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy—contributing to a charity which helps the homeless or helping a family who is in financial distress. It means preparing a meal weekly or food shopping for someone who is homebound; or assisting a family struggling to pay tuition for their child in a Catholic school. Whatever we choose to do, whether it is simple or creative, what is important is that, by our good works, we make Christ present to the many people in need.

Coupled with our good works, we should try to intensify our spiritual life through our practice of prayer, fasting and abstinence. The Holy Father has encouraged us to thoughtfully pray with the Scriptures through the use of “*Lectio Divina*.” This means we pick up the Scriptures, read a passage until something inspires us, then lay down the Bible and meditatively pray over a word, a verse or a sentence that we read. A good place to start with this practice would be to use the daily readings the Church gives us for Mass, or perhaps to prayerfully read the letters of St. Paul, since we are celebrating the 2000th anniversary of his birth this year. We can also enter into the mystery of the Christ-life by meditating daily on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary or attending Mass on a daily basis. We can even consider a practice from the past: fasting—which does not seem to be “in vogue” these days. Then we can practice almsgiving by contributing the money we save by fasting to a good cause. Abstaining from alcohol, desserts, smoking or a bad habit can not only improve our well being, but also enhance our spiritual life.

Lent truly is a time to come closer to the Lord, and our Church suggests many wonderful ways we can accomplish this. Please join me in making Lent a time of spiritual growth so that, together on Easter morning, we as the people of God can proclaim because of our good works and our prayer life that Jesus has truly risen from the tomb and dwells in our hearts! Happy Lent!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski
Bishop of Metuchen



LENTEN INSTRUCTIONS—2009

So that the Church of Metuchen may be spiritually one in a common observance of Lent, the following days of fast and abstinence are to be observed by all Catholics of the Diocese who enjoy the blessings of **good health**:

1. The days of **fast and abstinence** are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. All other Fridays of Lent are **days of abstinence**.
3. From the **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday** until the celebration of the **Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday**, the **Easter fast** should be observed so that, with uplifted and welcoming hearts, we may be ready to celebrate the joys of the Resurrection. This ancient tradition, intimately connected with the *Rites of Holy Week* and the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, is encouraged, especially in those places baptizing catechumens at the Easter Vigil.

The obligation to **fast** applies only to Catholics **between the ages of 18 and 59**. To fast in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal during the day so as to experience hunger.

The obligation of **abstinence** affects all Catholics who have **reached the age of 14**. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat and all meat products.

The obligation of fast and abstinence, as a whole, is a serious obligation. While failure to observe **any** penitential day in itself may **not be considered serious**, the failure to observe **any** penitential days at all, or a **substantial number** of them **without good cause**, would be considered a **grave matter**. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform **some other penitential act**, or to **abstain on another day**.

May all our Lenten prayers, fasting and works of mercy help prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord with renewed minds and hearts.

+Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski
Bishop of Metuchen

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: _____

Interfaith Hospitality Network

- 5:00-8:00 p.m. Hospitality
 - Tuesday, March 24
 - Wednesday, March 25
 - Friday, March 27
- 8:00-10:00 p.m. Hospitality
 - Tuesday, March 24
 - Wednesday, March 25
 - Friday, March 27
- Overnight (10:00 p.m.- 7:00 a.m.) Hospitality
 - Tuesday, March 24
 - Wednesday, March 25
 - Friday, March 27 (10:00 p.m.-8:00 a.m.)
- Provide dinner
 - Tuesday, March 24
 - Wednesday, March 25
 - Friday, March 27
- Provide dessert
 - Tuesday, March 24
 - Wednesday, March 25
 - Friday, March 27

Questions? Call Eileen Papson: 908-832-7290
papson@comcast.net

Church Environment Assistance

- I would be interested in attending a Lenten series.
(See Page 6 for more information)