

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 15, 2009

“Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.”

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, March 15 – Snow & Heat Collection/Food Pantry Weekend

- 9:00 a.m. K-6 Catechesis (Valley View School)
- 9:00 a.m. Family Faith Day Grade 4 (Valley View School)
- 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

Monday, March 16 – St. Finnian Lobhar

- 7:30 p.m. Individual Reconciliation – 4th Grade (Church Center)

Tuesday, March 17 – St. Patrick

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

Wednesday, March 18 – St. Cyril of Jerusalem

- 9:30 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence)
- 12:00 p.m. Calendar Meeting (Office Center)
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Bible Study (Office Center)
- 7:00 p.m. Evangelization Meeting (Office Center)
- 7:00 p.m. Pastoral Council Meeting (Office Center)
- 7:30 p.m. Bell Choir (Church Center)

Thursday, March 19 – St. Joseph

- 10:00 a.m. Nursing Home Visit (Little Brook N.H.)
- 7:00 p.m. Quilting (Office Center)
- 7:30 p.m. Music Ministry (Church Center)

Friday, March 20 – St. Martin of Braga

No Meat

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

Saturday, March 21 – Bl. Baptist of Mantua

- 3:30 p.m. First Eucharist Session 4 (Church Center)

Sunday, March 22 – Fourth Sunday of Lent/Catholic Relief (Black & National Missions)

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

MASS SCHEDULE

March 21 & 22

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
Lector L. Caprio
Altar Servers Germino Family
Gift Bearers Ranacco Family
Ministers of the Eucharist L. Garcia, B. Garcia,
..... J. Gardner, D. Torczon, D. Lance

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
Lector G. Wilson
Altar Server F. Kennedy
Ministers of the Eucharist R. Pojedinec, S. Pojedinec,
..... C. Behrens, G. Bates, K. Malley

Sunday Children’s Liturgy of the Word 10:30 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
Lector K. Kucharski
Altar Server Mastro Family
Gift Bearers Cucchiara Family
Ministers of the Eucharist C. Carroll, C. Frey,
..... L. Gerristead, M. Milko, L. Mergen

Sunday 12:15 p.m.

Celebrant Fr. Mickiewicz
Lector P. Gagen
Ministers of the Eucharist R. Wickel, M. Wickel

SNOW AND HEAT COLLECTION

This Weekend (March 14 & 15)

This weekend there will be a second collection to help pay for the snow removal and heat this present winter. We have had a lot of snow but even more ice and so have used a lot of salt to keep the parking lot and walks clear. This collection has traditionally also included help in paying for the heat. Thanks you for assisting us with these expenses.

CRS/NATIONAL BLACK & INDIAN MISSIONS COLLECTION

Next Weekend

The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Collection supports Catholic Church organizations that carry out international relief and solidarity efforts. Programs include relief and resettlement services to the victims of persecution, war and natural disasters as well as development projects to improve the living conditions of the poor; advocacy on behalf of the powerless; peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence; and legal and support services to poor immigrants.

The Church’s National Collection for Black and Indian Missions in the United States will be combined with the CRS collection. Since 1884, proceeds from this collection are distributed as grants to dioceses supporting and strengthening evangelization programs which would otherwise be in danger of disappearing among the Black, American Indian, Eskimo and Aleute communities of the United States.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B

Today we are reminded that our covenant relationship with God entails obligations for both ourselves and God. Our obligations are spelled out in the commandments revealed to Moses on Sinai (CCC #2052-82). These ten guidelines for behavior that is pleasing to God still serve as our fundamental source of moral behavior. When our human practices deviate from these norms, as exemplified in the gospel that describes Jesus' cleansing of the sacred temple of its profane economic practices, we must be willing to reexamine our lives and change them (CCC #1430-39), to be more in keeping with these guidelines from God (#1145-62, 2655).

STRENGTH



God's foolishness and God's weakness, the Ten Commandments and the foolish wisdom of humans—all lead us to the crucified Jesus, the sanctuary destroyed and raised up in three days.

Prejudgments are obstacles to standing by the cross of Jesus, who ties heaven and earth and all else together. Through Jesus, we are redeemed and our life has meaning. By his glorious cross we are saved. Jesus knows what each of us has inside. He offers strength for our weakness.

† REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS †

Irene Adams	Anthony Fiorillo	Erica Morgan
Eleanor Angelina	Ann Flemming	Natalie O'Hearn
Joe Angelina	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
Mary Bock	Christina Grillo	Alissa Marie Ricciardi
Loretta Briener	Colleen Hendzrak	Pat Roach
Eugene Brzezienski	Anita Horan	Julie Ruby
Shirley Bumen	Richard Hughes	John Sawczuk
James Burns	Brittney Ianitto	Maria Sawczuk
John Burns	Jeannine Imperiale	Ed Scharf
Eileen Cafilin	Ernest Jandersit	Chris Seltzer
Angie Caponetti	Robert Jandersit	Abe Shalaby
Barbara Carbonneau	Nona Janks	Paul Shubeck
Joseph Carpentiere	Diana Janowski	Sister Mary George
John Caspar	Bob Jenkinson	Marianna Sivori
Jose Castro	Harry Kaemmerer	Carol Smarsh
Lou Citarelli	John Kaemmerer	Colleen Smith
Riley Clark	Trudy Kaemmerer	Alice Sprague
Lorraine Cochrane	Garrison Keillor	Joseph Sterphone
Tony Colenari	Rosemary Kimbal	Felicia Steward
Gerard Cook	Mary Kirchner	Marla Stivers
Valerie Cordero	Spencer Kydd	William Stortz
Kristine Orvos Cresti	Michael Lamotte	Timothy Struble
Natalia Cresti	Harry Larson	Evelyn Sulenski
Dalton Cummins	Kevin Leahy	Mary Sulenski
Joseph D'Achino	Holly Lear	Julie Suplee
Sr. Ann Damian	Jewel LeVine	Tracey Sutch
Maria Elena Dawson	Michele Makos	Margaret Sweeney
Peter Demchur	Taylor Maleski	John Toolan
Dorothy Deo	Silas Mastro	Brendan Treanor
Nick DeVincenzo	Tom Martin	Rose Uricchio
Anthony DeVito	Judy Martino	Robert Villani
Mary Ditzel	Marie Mazzoni	Dayelle Watts
Ann Dodwell	Zaira Mazzoni	James Emory Weber, Sr.
Betty Doyle	Susan McHugh	Harvey Whille
Paul DuPre	Patrick McKenna	John William
Lou Eacovalle	Brett Melworn	Gloria Wood
Courtney Ellis	George Meyer	Elizabeth Wodrich
Hannah Farrington	George Milke	Lynn Yondolino
Mary Feo	Betsy Miller	John J. Zelesny
Akiea Finn	Michael Milto	Eileen Zocchi
	Nina Montouri	Michael Zocchi

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, March 17

7:00 p.m. People of the Parish

Wednesday, March 18

9:30 a.m. Sick of the Parish

Friday, March 20

7:00 a.m. Catherine Bohem & Family

Saturday, March 21

5:30 p.m. Walter Lickowid req. Josephine Handy

Sunday, March 22

8:00 a.m. Genevieve Falco req. Grant Family

10:30 a.m. Joan Lauler req. G.S. Troop 1018

12:15 p.m. Pura Salgado req. Giametta Family

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Monday, March 16

Bulletin

7:30 p.m. 4th Grade Reconciliation (Church Center)

Tuesday, March 17

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

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

Wednesday, March 18

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

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

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

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

Thursday, March 19

Out of Town

Friday, March 20

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

Saturday, March 21

10:00 a.m. Appointment (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: **Janks – Jo-an Fairweather – Maureen Carse – Edward Hempling – Marta Wiepzynski – Thomas Bennett – Ed Dalton – Gerald Cassebaum – Bruce Kennedy – Jennie Tullo – John McGourty**

Deceased: Bruce Kennedy, husband of France Kennedy, father of Jamie Kennedy; **Jennie Tullo**, grandmother of Michelle Regan; **John McGourty**, friend of parishioners. 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

FROM OUR SPONSOR CHILD

The following is a letter from our sponsor child Angel Fajardo Cerdena who lives in the Philippines. In addition to our regular sponsorship, our parish contributed an additional one-hundred dollars as a Christmas gift of extra assistance for her. Angel lives with her grandmother and her only income is derived from working in a rice field owned by a neighbor. Angel decided to use the money to purchase rice and other food commodities, bed foam and a clothes organizer. She and her family deeply appreciate our support and consider us the "greatest blessing" to their lives.

Dear St. John Newman Church,
Greetings!! How's the loving persons of my life? I wrote you because I want to let you know that I am very thankful to you for sending us the money. It really helped us a lot. By the way, I decided to use the money for our groceries, bed foam and a durabox. The groceries were for our daily needs. Actually before, we are experiencing food shortage but because of your kindness and support for us we survived from that problem. I and my family were so happy and comfortable when sleeping at night since we are now using the new bed foam. We also now have our durabox for our clothes. I think I would not be happy right now if you are not in my life. We are really lucky that we have the sponsors like you. Maybe without you we won't be able to pass it through. God is so great that he did not neglect us for he gave me and my family the greatest blessing of all, one that is you. St. John Neumann church.

I hope this letter of mine would be enough to thank you even though I am not able to say it to you personally. I hope and I pray that you won't get tired of helping needy person like me. Thank you very much and God Bless!!

Love lots, Angel Cerdena

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. Someone is needed to visit with and take an individual out once a week.
3. Volunteers are needed to carry food donations upstairs to our Food Pantry Locker after any Mass.

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.**

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.**

LITTLE BROOK NURSING HOME VISIT

Thursday, March 19, 10:00 a.m., Little Brook N. H.

Our next monthly visit to Little Brook Nursing Home will take place on **Thursday, March 19 from 10:00 a.m. until noon**. Please consider joining us and spend some time with the residents - they really look forward to our visits. Children are always welcome!! **If you would like to provide a snack or if you would like more information, please call Nancy DuBeau at 832-7548.**

EASTER FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Our Easter Food – Pick, Pack and Deliver will, like everything else associated with Easter comes early this year. Over the next few weeks please look for bargains on hams frozen, fresh or canned. They can be left in the appropriate freezer or refrigerator in the Carriage House.

The Pick is scheduled for Thursday – April 2 at 6:00 p.m., Pack is scheduled for Friday – April 3 at 7:00 p.m. and Deliver will begin on Saturday – April 4 at 8:00 a.m. If you wish to volunteer you can use the signup sheet included with this bulletin or signup on the parish website: www.ccsjn.org and go to "Forms & Responses."

If you cannot help with the Pick, Pack and Deliver please consider making a monetary donation by dropping your cash or check into the Social Ministry Drop Box in the Narthex next to the Social Ministry Station. Donations marked "St. John's Food Pantry" will be used to purchase the necessary fresh food items as well as anything that we might come up short on to complete the Easter meals.

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.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

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.

FIRST EUCHARIST

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

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION: FOURTH GRADERS

Celebration of Individual Reconciliation for fourth graders has been rescheduled to **Monday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Narthex of the Church.

RESPECT LIFE

An Oregon court recently decided that a woman had the right to kill frozen embryos as part of the property in a divorce settlement. Commented a Catholic Medical Association physician, "It's where the culture of death has led our society – through the courts – to truly devalue human life." *The Southern Cross*, November 2008

WHY I L*VE LENT

Why do you LOVE or LIVE Lent?

Thanks to **Joe Sima** for setting up the Board Display. You can add your reflections directly there.

- because it puts things in perspective.
- because I anticipate the liturgy of Holy Thursday (one of my favorites).
- because I find the liturgy of Good Friday special.
- because of childhood memories of the Mite Box and saving pennies which has been replaced with the Rice Bowl.
- because of the memory of kissing the crucifix on the pillow on Good Friday.
- because we have pizza night on Fridays.
- because Spring is almost here.
- new and exciting changes are everywhere.
- because it gives a reason for self-improvement and personal change.
- because of a personal recharging/refueling that gives a joyful and enjoyable spirit.

WHEN I L*VE LENT

When I love or live Lent what happens? Is there a right time, a better time, a planned time? It is about time or situations? In today's Gospel Jesus seized the moment - "carpe diem." There doesn't seem to be any forethought or preparation for the moment. Yet we can gradually see the build up of frustration and the difficulty of responding to people's needs that were beyond their capacity to change. The "when" can alter our journey. If we are going someplace and something happens along the way do we push that aside and continue on our journey or do we stop and attend to what is before us? There are things that come along that are the real invitations to Lent than the ones we have planned. Lent brings us the opportunity to make the "when" immediate instead of procrastinating.

When do you love Lent? - When it is convenient? When it is necessary? When you have nothing else to do? When I get time?

When I reflect on what I am reading. When something on the news reminds me that "we need a little Lent, right this very moment." When I see someone doing something special for Lent. When someone refuses something because they have given or made up their mind to do something for Lent. When are your "whens?" Send or email them. Write them on the board in the Worship Space.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

Consult last week's bulletin

No meat on Fridays during Lent.

Do something special to make the Gospel values alive.

"Repent and live the Gospel values!"

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.

EVANGELIZATION

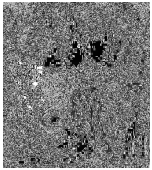
I LOVE YOU

Our beliefs and feelings in life need to be both stated and acted upon. The expression of love is one of these. We should never miss an opportunity to both say and act out our love on a daily basis. Not only should we treat each day as if it were our last, but we need to think of others in the same terms. Whether it is our relationship with God or one another, everything we say and do needs to be an expression of the love in our hearts. Living our lives in an effort to do this will not only reflect our faith well, but we will have fewer regrets when we lose someone especially close or we are called home to God.

Taking the time to reflect and act out of love is also one of the surest ways of slowing the pace of our hectic lives. It opens us up to intimacy, forgiveness and reconciliation just as God's love for us opens the door to these things spiritually through Christ.

During this season of Lent maybe we can recommit ourselves to both stating and acting out our love for God, family, friends and strangers, "I love you," the true be all and end all.

WASHING OF FEET



While we no longer trod dirt paths and roads as we travel anymore, the act of foot washing for Christians is still as meaningful today as it was on the first Holy Thursday.

If Jesus, our Christ who was both God and man, could love and humble himself to wash the dust from the apostle's feet prior to his

washing all humanity's guilt for original sin and establishing a wellspring of redeeming grace, can we do any less and be true followers?

It is clear in St. John's gospel (13:1-20) that Jesus expected both his apostles and those who followed his teaching to exhibit the love, humility and attitude of service to others. He was demonstrating during His Passover Meal that Holy Thursday evening. It was a special and singular act. Not the physical act of a lowly slave washing the feet of those of a higher station who were about to partake of a meal, rather it was, as a person of that day would view it, someone of the highest rank doing an unprecedented thing by washing the feet of those of lower rank. It has been said the act had both physical and spiritual elements, for many believe that it was at this point that the community of Christ's followers, the Church, was created and its governance provided for.

Is it not both our duty and privilege to take part in the washing of feet? Please consider taking an active part in this year's **Holy Thursday – Washing of Feet** by volunteering your happy feet using the bulletin sign-up sheet or on-line at www.ccsjn.org "forms and responses." Twelve are needed at the 8:00 p.m. Holy Thursday Mass.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays during Lent at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Center.

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.

THE YEAR OF ST. PAUL

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Paul had had a great deal of experience in preaching to both Jews and Gentiles. He had found again and again that the Jews wanted a sign, that is to say, a legitimating miracle (as in today's gospel—John 2:18) to authenticate his apostolicity and the truth of his message.

The Greeks, on the other hand, looked for wisdom, that is to say, they were prepared to accept Christianity if it was presented as "wisdom," or "gnosis"—that is, if it brought a convincing understanding of the universe and of the place of humanity in it, so that one could thereby be released from the trammels of earthly existence and reunited with one's heavenly origin.

It was wisdom rather than signs that the Corinthians, who were mainly Gentiles, desired at this time. Later on, however, by the time 2 Corinthians was written, they would be impressed by Jewish-Christian preachers who came along offering signs. Paul does not altogether repudiate the religious quest of either the Jew or the Gentile, but he corrects it by the message of the cross.

The cross is power (*dynamis*, the word frequently used for "miracle" and corresponding to "sign") and wisdom. But it is a paradoxical kind of power and wisdom—a foolishness (note the chiasmic construction) in human eyes that is wiser than human beings, and a weakness that is stronger than them.

Only believers can penetrate the wisdom behind the folly, and the power behind the weakness. For all unbelievers the message of the cross remains a scandal (for Jews) and folly (for Greeks).

1. According to Paul in this reading, what is the only sign we have been given in answer to the Gospel question, "What sign can you show us?"

2. What do the "foolishness" and "weakness" of God refer to? St. Paul says the Jews had a problem accepting Christ crucified. Do you greet your crosses with open arms or can they be "stumbling blocks" for you too?

ADULT FORMATION

PONDERING PAUSES

from UNCHRISTIAN - what a new generation really thinks about Christianity. . . and why it matters
by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons p. 15-16

WHY UNCHRISTIAN?

Using the lens of the careful, scientific research we conducted, I invite you to see what Christianity looks like from the outside. In fact, the title of this book, *unChristian*, reflects outsiders' most common reaction to the faith: they think Christians no longer represent what Jesus had in mind, that Christianity in our society is not what it was meant to be. I will describe this in greater detail in Chapter 2, but for many people the Christian faith looks weary and threadbare. They admit they have a hard time actually seeing Jesus because of all the negative baggage that now surrounds him.

One outsider from Mississippi made this blunt observation: "Christianity has become bloated with blind followers who would rather repeat slogans than actually feel true compassion and care. Christianity has become marketed and streamlined into a juggernaut of fearmongering that has lost its own heart."

After thousands of interviews and countless hours studying non-Christians, I believe outsiders would want this book titled *unChristian*. Young people today are incredibly candid. They do not hold back their opinions. I want to capture outsiders' expressions and views in these pages. I don't agree with everything they say. Yet if I am going to be your guide to the hearts and minds of people outside Christianity - if you are going to understand them - I feel compelled to represent their viewpoint fairly and candidly, even if it is uncomfortable for those of us who are Christian. To engage nonChristians and point them to Jesus, we have to understand and approach them based on what they really think, not what we assume about them. We can't overcome their hostility by ignoring it. We need to understand their unvarnished views of us. Therefore this book reflects outsiders' unfiltered reactions to Christianity.

So *unChristian* it is.

Even though some of the realities are uncomfortable, I have no intention of picking on Christ followers. Far from it. My purpose is not to berate Christians. You don't find here the names of any Christian leaders who have done wrong things. From time to time, I will use as anonymous illustration to show why some of the negative perceptions exist. Yet the point is not to pick on any particular person. Every Christ follower bears some degree of responsibility for the image problem (I'll

explain that later); it is not helpful to assign blame to those who have made mistakes.

Still for the things we can influence - our lives, our churches, the way we express Christianity to others - I hope that by helping you better understand people's skepticism, your capacity to love people will increase, offering them genuine hope and real compassion through Jesus Christ. Paul, the most prominent writer of the New Testament, says, "While knowledge may make us feel important, it is love that really builds up the church" (*1Cor. 8:1).

(to be continued)

ADULT FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP

This Lent explore the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection in your own life. Come join our discussion on the "Power of the Cross" on either **Wednesday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Seton Room** or **March 29 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Valley View School cafeteria. There is real freedom in the cross!

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Office Center

A parish Bible Study group exploring the Seven Last Words of Christ will meet in the Seton Room once a week on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. during Lent. **Contact Dr. Rose Fay for more information at rosefay@ccsjn.org or 832-2162.**

A LENTEN GATHERING

Still Available

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.

Readings for the week of March 15, 2009

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25
Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a (St. Joseph)
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21

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CATECHESIS

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

Third Sunday of Lent

Focus: Zeal for God's Law
“Our commitment is revealed in our passion for God and God's people.”

Scripture: Jesus made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, “Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace.”

John 2: 13-25

Reflection: How does today's story tell us about what is important to people? To God?

Song: “I Heard the Voice of Jesus” #479

Story: Welcome to my Father's house

A couple moved to Atlanta and were looking for a new church to join. They attended a dinner for all newcomers where they heard about the many ministries and programs of the church.

“We have a beautiful sanctuary and wonderful facilities.”

“This church has the finest music program in the city.”

“The youth program is fantastic.”

Then a young man named Marshall told his story. High on crack cocaine, he'd stumbled into the outreach center and begged for help. “I've been sober for three years now, the reason I'm joining is that God saved me in this church.”

The visitors looked at one another sheepishly: They were there for the music and parking; Marshall was there for the salvation.

A few weeks later a squib in the newsletter noted that Marshall was an inmate in the county jail. One of the newcomers went to see him. Marshall told him his story:

“I was in the outreach center, counseling people like myself, off the street, telling them that they could do right. I realized I hadn't done right myself. I had an old warrant for my arrest. It would never have caught up with me, but I turned myself in. I'll be out by Easter. But in the meantime, I've got an outreach center here. I write letters for people who can't read, and every night we have a prayer meeting.”

[From a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Thomas Long, Washington National Cathedral, June 1, 2008.]

In today's Gospel, Jesus drives out those money changers who have distorted the meaning of the temple; he then redefines the temple from a place of stone and mortar to a community of souls centered in his own resurrected body. The cleansing of the temple challenges us to take a look at our own parish “temple” with Lenten eyes: to realize that Christ has called us to this house to be a church: to be the compassion, the healing, the justice, the peace of Christ for one another; to refocus all we do here as the means for realizing the presence of God in our midst.

Connections, March 2009

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FUNDRAISER GERTRUDE HAWK

Orders Due March 15

Catalogs for this year's Religious Education fundraiser are available in the Narthex of the Church. For your convenience, you may also order on-line at www.gertrudehawk.com. Our group # is 119849 and a step-by-step guide is attached to the catalog. **All orders are due March 15.** Please return orders through Religious Education or drop them off at the Office Center. **Your orders will be available to pick up in the Narthex the weekends of March 29-29 and April 4-5.** If you miss the March 15 deadline, you may place your order on-line up until April 3 for home delivery (shipping charges will apply). **Any questions call Annette Tagliareni at 832-2162.** Thank you for your support of our children's catechesis!

OPERATION RICE BOWL 2009

In today's Gospel, we read about Jesus cleansing the Temple. This story has a sense of urgency. It is not about anger; it's about transformation. Jesus is saying: “No more business as usual. There is not much time left. Be converted, be cleansed because the reign of God is at hand.” As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey let us remember in **prayer** that all humanity has been made in the image of God. Through our actions we must express that each person is precious and that the lives and welfare of all people are priorities. May our **fasting** keep us mindful of the hunger of the people of the world. May our **almsgiving** assist Catholic Relief Services as we **learn** about programs that care for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Tanzania. Rice bowls and calendars are available in the basket at the Operation Rice Bowl display in the Narthex.

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



FUND RAISING

AUCTION NEWS – SAVE THE DATE

Friday June 5 & Saturday, June 6



Save the dates -- June 5 for Tricky Tray and June 6 for the Wine Tasting and the new, improved Grand Auction! This year's auction will be a silent auction held during a dinner dance!

Three of the traditional "Fab Five"

Raffle prizes will be *lots* of A&P and ShopRite Dollars, a Wii, and a Flip (ask your teenagers).

In addition, there will be Neumann's own Fifty/Fifty! Tickets will cost \$50 each, but just like the State lottery, people can share a ticket. The total number of tickets is 2000. If all 2000 are sold, both the winning ticket holder AND our parish will take home \$50,000. That's our goal. If we sell only 1600 tickets, then the prize will be \$40,000. You get the idea.

The Auction Group has been meeting since fall, putting pieces in place. But now the rubber meets the road -- we are still looking for:

- Auction Co-Chairs
- Traditional "Fab Five" Raffle Chair & prize procurer

Please call or email the office to tell us the good news!

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.

SHOP RITE & A&P CARDS



We had **23 families** purchase Shop-Rite and A&P gift cards last weekend, for a total of **\$2,425.00** with **\$121.25** coming to the parish. Stop after Mass on the weekends or come to the Office Center during the week. It costs you nothing and the Parish gains 5% on all gift cards. Our thanks to

all who purchase these cards and to those who are willing to stay after Mass to sell them. Gift cards rank third in fund raising only beaten by the Auction and total Craft Show.

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.**

PARISH NEWS

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

February 28, 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 **Sharon Lohrman** as a representative of the Fundraising Committee. This Committee is a vital support to parish life and operations. The Committee continues to look for innovation to tailor parish activities to meet parish needs within a more cautious economic environment. The Grand Auction will now be incorporated into a Dinner Dance. The Tricky Tray will continue to be a part of that weekend's events. The Committee would like to develop ideas that will attract participants from outside our parish.
- The Stewardship and Fundraising Committees have selected St. Mary's parish in Coeburn, Virginia to fulfill a Stewardship goal in the Parish Five Year Plan. The goal states: "Sponsor a parish or mission in an underdeveloped area of the US or internationally in order to increase our outreach ministries to expand our global horizons". St. Mary's is a small congregation with two associated parishes, Good Shepherd in Lebanon, VA and St. Therese in St. Paul, VA. They also have ministries at the Wise Correctional Unit #18 and Flatwoods Job Corps Center. The financial support from St. John Neumann's would come from the proceeds of the A&P/Shop Rite dollars purchased after Masses during every third Sunday, beginning March 14/15.
- "Be a Part of the Change." Three new pastoral Council members will be needed this May. **An informal coffee will be hosted by the Pastoral Council after 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, March 29. An information session will be held on Monday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the church center.** All are welcome!

CHURCH ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE

Fr. Bill is looking for some people who could help with changing the Church environment from season to season or indeed form an ongoing group to take care of this need. If you are interested and can help please contact Fr. Bill by email, phone, tear out sheet from the bulletin or on line.

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

SPONSORING ST. MARY'S PARISH

This Weekend

The Pastoral Council developed a Five Year Plan at its inception. This Plan was recently presented in its updated format. One of the items in the Plan under **Stewardship** the **Goal:** "Foster a sense of ownership among all parishioners through Stewardship." Objective 2 is "Sponsor a parish or mission in an underdeveloped area of the US or internationally in order to increase our outreach ministries to expand our global horizons."

With the joint effort of the Stewardship Committee and the Fundraising Committee we have decided to use the funds collected for Shop Rite and A&P cash cards on the Third Weekend of each month for the parish of St. Mary's in Coeburn, VA and the associated parishes of Good Shepherd, Lebanon and St. Therese, St. Paul VA. The pastor is Rev. Michael J. Herbert. We hope to establish a relationship with this parish and have an exchange of visiting and helping during the summer months. We will keep you updated on these developments.

On the Third Weekend of March 14 - 15 we will begin this program of sending on a monthly basis. We will also share their story with you. From information that I can glean from THE OFFICIAL CATHOLIC DIRECTORY, St. Therese's has 6 students in Religious Education and Good Shepherd has 7 students. I have not as yet located the numbers at St. Mary's. We will connect those dots as we go along.

Join us on this new venture by supporting the Shop Rite and A&P cash cards program on the third weekend of each month.

DIOCESAN NEWS

2008 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Telemarketing Campaign

In an effort to secure the funding which is critical to sustaining our pastoral, educational and charitable ministries, the Diocese of Metuchen is embarking on a telemarketing campaign for the 2008 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Calls will be made from March 2 through April 3 (excluding Sundays). Please note that callers will not ask for your credit card information. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Very Reverend Sylvester J. Cronin, Executive Director, Stewardship & Development by phone at 732-562-2431 or by e-mail at scronin@diometuchen.org.

SUPPORT GROUPS OFFERED

UMDNJ Behavioral HealthCare is offering free 90-minute support groups for individuals affected by the economic downturn. Experienced counselors, who facilitate the workshops, assist individuals coping with the stress of job loss, unemployment, mortgage/student loan payments, etc. The weekly sessions, which are open to the public, are held in Newark, New Brunswick, Edison and Monmouth Junction. **For more information, please call 1-800-969-5300.**

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.

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.

CATHOLIC INFERTILITY SUPPORT GROUP

Suffering Silently?- Are you and your spouse currently experiencing the pain of infertility or the inability to maintain a pregnancy? There is support available! Come join us for a Catholic Infertility Support Group, now being offered through the Family Life Office/Diocese of Metuchen on the third Saturday of the month at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway, NJ.

The next meeting will be held on March 21, 2009 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.. For more information and to pre-register, please contact Robert & Amy Sherlock at (908) 500-1695 or amysherlock@gmail.com.

KEEPING THE CUP FULL: FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP FOR YOUNG ADULTS

March 22, 6:30 p.m. at St. Bernard, 500 Route 22, Bridgewater, NJ

The Diocese of Metuchen Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry would like to invite Young Adults to an evening presentation by Arthur D. Canales on **Keeping the Cup Full: Financial Stewardship for Young Adults** on Sunday March 22, 6:30 p.m. at St. Bernard, 500 Route 22, Bridgewater, NJ.

*“Young adults struggle with money, whether it's their career choices, spending or saving, credit cards, renting or buying a place to live, or even knowing what to do with it for the future. Some of these issues can affect the emotional and spiritual lives of young adults in the world today. **Keeping the Cup Full: Financial Stewardship for Young Adults** is a great resource for anyone in college or in their 20's or 30's who can identify with those struggles.”* Paul Jarzembowski,

M.A., Acting Executive Director, National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association, Joliet, Illinois

Please RSVP by March 13, 2009 – 732-563-1990 x 1627 or nsantamaria@diometuchen.org. This evening is free.

ENCOUNTERING GOD'S DESIRE FOR US IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Diocese of Metuchen Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry Invites all Young Adults to...

Encountering God's Desire for Us in Everyday Life. Listening to the Whisper of God with an attentive heart in Prayer, through the use of imagination, journaling and in the Scriptures. Presented by Sr. Mary Catherine Redmond, PBVM & Rev. Rocco Danzi, SJ

Saturday March 28, 2009

St. Joseph Seminary, Princeton, NJ
10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. – Concluding with the celebration of Sunday Liturgy.

The cost for the day is \$35 per person, including coffee and bagels and lunch.

For more information and to RSVP please call Mary T. Naccarato 732-562-1990 ext 1635 or email mnaccarato@diometuchen.org.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND

April 17-19

Beginning Experience is a weekend program designed to help widowed, separated and divorced persons make a new beginning through a powerful, intense, positive experience of hope and peace and is open to persons of all faiths.

The specially trained team members are “wounded healers” who have suffered the loss of a spouse. The participants are led through the program which consists of presentations followed by personal, private reflection and dialogue in small groups.

The next weekend is scheduled for April 17-19 at the Stella Maris Retreat House in Elberon, NJ. For detailed information, call Vivian at 732-441-7070 or Rich at 609-333-9868.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ANNUAL PASTA DINNER

Sunday, March 22, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Immaculata High School, Somerville

The Music Department at Immaculata High School invites you to an afternoon of great food and festive music played by the IHS Jazz Ensembles. Join us for the Sixteenth Annual Pasta Dinner on Sunday, March 22, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Immaculata High School cafeteria located at 240 Mountain Ave., Somerville, NJ. All you can eat pasta dinner including salad, pasta with meatballs, bread, a variety of homemade desserts, and beverages. \$6.00 for adults/high school students and \$4.00 for children/senior citizens. Take out is available. Please call the Immaculata Music Department at 908-722-0200, x132 for reservations.

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.**

ST. JOSEPH'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Saturday, March 21, Califon Fire Hall

The Knights of Columbus and Holy Name Society of St Joseph's Church in High Bridge are organizing the 4th annual St Patrick's Dinner/Dance at the Fire Hall in Califon on March 21, 2009. Admission is \$25 per person and includes corned beef dinner, live and DJ music, wine, beer and soft drinks. **For tickets or information, call Fred Loozen at 638-6740.**

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

OFFICE ANGELS

Monday, March 16	- Angel Needed	p.m.
Tuesday, March 17	- D. Zigmantanis	p.m.
Wednesday, March 18	- S. Griffin	p.m.
Thursday, March 19	- B. Pannone	p.m.

SHOP RITE & A&P CARDS

March 14 & 15	- M. Stout	5:30 p.m.
	- P. Nanna	8:00 a.m.
	- J. Varcadipane	10:30 a.m.
	- D. Hingos	12:15 p.m.
March 21 & 22	- M. Vincenzi	5:30 p.m.
	- V. Santoro	8:00 a.m.
	- C. Manbeck	10:30 a.m.
	- D. Hingos	12:15 p.m.

CHURCH CENTER WATERING SCHEDULE

Week of March 15	-	T. Menzie
Week of March 22	-	M. Buniva

CHURCH CENTER CLEANING TEAM

March 20	-	Team B
March 27	-	Team C

BULLETIN TRANSPORTERS

March 20	-	A. Dalpe
March 27	-	A. Giametta

STEWARDSHIP AND THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is a special season for the Christian steward to center attention on conversion, one of the first principles of Christian stewardship. It is a time when conversion finds practical expression in prayer, fasting and developing habits of greater generosity. In the current financial crisis, with rising unemployment, and a deepening global recession, the Lenten season invites stewards to focus more intensely on their relationship with the Lord and cultivate a greater awareness of those in need. It is because we live in such an increasingly interconnected world, that the poor and vulnerable suffer the worst during these times.

In his annual Lenten message, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict, made clear that fasting from food and detaching oneself from material goods during Lent helps us open our hearts to God and our hands to the poor. "Fasting is an aid to open our eyes to the situation in which so many of our brothers and sisters live."

Lent is also a time to practice almsgiving; to renounce those conveniences and material comforts that keep us from hearing the cries of a fragile world and find creative ways to respond to the poor. Almsgiving brings together love for God and love for neighbor.

During this season of Lent, let us make a concrete commitment to prayer, fasting and acts of generosity. Let us pray for the wisdom and strength to let go of things that get in the way of our relationship with God; for a strengthening of faith; and for the grace to see that the poor of the world are not strangers, but are our sisters and brothers.

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER FOR LENT

God of mercy,
You have given us this special time
to reflect on our lives,
believe in the Good News
and draw closer to You.
May this season of Lent
help us use this time
to fast and pray,
be more generous
and show others
how to live in Christ.
Let us see each day of this season
as a new opportunity to renew
our lives
and gain a deeper appreciation
of Your active presence
in us and our community of faith.
Give us the grace to see Your
face in others,
especially the poor
and those who suffer.
And through your Spirit,
enkindle in us the fire of Your love
so that we may be better stewards
of Your
redeeming work throughout
the world.
We ask this through Jesus, Your Son.
Amen.

From The International Catholic Stewardship Council
Newsletter, March 2009

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5:00-8:00 p.m. Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> 8:00-10:00 p.m. Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, March 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, March 24 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, March 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, March 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday, March 27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday, March 27 |
|
 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overnight (10:00 p.m.- 7:00 a.m.) Hospitality | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, March 24 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, March 25 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday, March 27 (10:00 p.m.-8:00 a.m.) | |
|
 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide dinner | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide dessert |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, March 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, March 24 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, March 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, March 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday, March 27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday, March 27 |

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

Auction Weekend

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auction Chair/Co-Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Tricky Tray Chair/Co-Chair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fab Five Raffle Chair/Prize Procurer | <input type="checkbox"/> Fifty-fifty Raffle Chair |
- Questions? Call Rita Price: 908-832-2513
ritaprice@ccsjn.org

Easter Food Distribution

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pick 4/2, 6:00 p.m. | <input type="checkbox"/> Pack 4/3, 7:00 p.m. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deliver 4/4, 8:00 a.m. | |

Questions? Call Earl Roberts: 908-832-2513
eroberts@ccsjn.org

- Participate in foot washing at Holy Thursday Liturgy.
- Project Earth Garden Planning
- Visit with/take out an individual once a week
- Carry food donations up to the food pantry after Mass.