

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

PO Box 455, Califon, New Jersey, 07830

908-832-2513

January 9, 2011

Volume 29, Number 2



A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition

Diocese of Metuchen
Most. Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski,
Bishop
Most Rev. Edward T. Hughes, retired
Bishop
www.diometuchen.org

Trustees:
Mary Connolly
Lyle Garcia

Our Parish

Parish Team

Rev. J William Mickiewicz..... Pastor
Thomas J. Gilheany .Retired Deacon
Earl Roberts,Deacon
Pastoral Assistant, Connxions and
Social Ministry
Dr. Rose Fay..... Pastoral Assistant,
Formation

Mailing Address:
PO Box 455
Califon, NJ 07830

Office Center:
398 County Route 513
Califon, NJ
908-832-2513
908-832-7618 fax
www.ccsjn.org

Worshipping at:
398 County Road 513
(Church Center)

Saturday Vigil Mass5:30 p.m.
Sunday.....8:00 a.m.
Sunday.....10:30 a.m.

390 County Road 513
(Neumann Residence)

Tuesday7:00 p.m.
Wednesday9:30 a.m.
Friday7:00 a.m.

Reconciliation

Saturday..... 4:45-5:15 p.m.

Mission Statement

Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

FOUNDED on the teachings of Jesus Christ,
NOURISHED by the hospitality of the Califon Christian
Communities,
FORMED with a commitment to Social Ministry, and
STRENGTHENED by the Holy Spirit

*The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann is
a jubilant people on a continuing spiritual
journey of hope:*

TO CELEBRATE and *DEEPEN* our faith
TO SHARE our unique gifts, talents and treasures
TO CHERISH all life
TO LIVE in openness, acceptance and love.

About Our Parish

The Catholic Community
of St. John Neumann

PO Box 455, Califon, NJ 07830
www.ccsjn.org

Office Center.....908-832-2513
Church Center.....908-832-6343
Social Ministry908-832-2262
Religious Education908-832-2162
Connxions908-832-2262
Fax.....908-832-7618

Parish Staff

Rose Fay..Pastoral Assistant, Catechesis
Wayne Infusino Maintenance
Sharon JanksPastoral Administrator
JoAnn JarvisReligious Ed Secretary
Rita Price Parish Secretary
Kristin Gemma Bulletin Coordinator
Earl Roberts Pastoral Assistant,
.....Connxions & Social Ministry
Maureen StoutFinancial Administrator

Staff Email Addresses

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Maureen Stoutmaureenstout@ccsjn.org



The voice of the
Lord is over the waters.
The voice of the
Lord is mighty,
the voice of
the Lord is
majestic

Parish Registration

Anyone living within the parish boundaries who would like to become a member of our Catholic Community or who is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith should call or email the church office. We will meet with you at your convenience where you will learn about our parish and the opportunities we offer. Those joining the parish are encouraged to celebrate their welcome and registration at a weekend Mass.

Please notify the parish office of any change in phone number, address, email address or when leaving the parish.

Parish registration is required for religious education, celebration of sacraments and certification as a sponsor.

Regular Sunday worship indicates a practicing Catholic, not just parish registration. An assurance of family practice and raising children in the faith they seek is necessary for the sacraments of initiation and certification of sponsorship.

Sacraments of Initiation

Baptism: Baptism is celebrated at any weekend Mass. The preparation process begins during pregnancy and includes an initial pastoral visit with the Pastoral Assistant for Connxions and attendance at one Baptism Preparation Session, which is offered quarterly. Please call the parish office to register. Parish membership and active worship is required for two months prior to preparation. No baptisms are celebrated during Lent.

First Eucharist: First Eucharist is celebrated in May, following two years of preparation. Family participation and regular worship are an integral component.

Confirmation: Confirmation is celebrated in the fall, following three years of preparation. Active participation and weekly worship are an integral component.

Adult Confirmation: The formation process is held in the parish, followed by a parish celebration of Adult Confirmation.

Initiation of Adults and Older Children: This is an extended gradual formation process for unbaptized or uncatechized adults, or baptized Christians who wish to enter the Catholic Church or for unbaptized or uncatechized school-aged children. Interested persons may begin the process at any time, please contact the parish office for more information.

Sacrament Celebrations

First Reconciliation: First Reconciliation is celebrated in Advent of the second grade. Parent participation and regular worship is required.

Matrimony: Couples wishing to be married at St. John's are required to make arrangements one year in advance. Four sessions with the Pastor and Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter take place during this year. Parish registration and active worship are required.

Anointing of the Sick: Anyone who is seriously ill or unable to come to church for a length of time should contact the parish office so someone may visit and bring the sacraments.

Holy Orders: If you are interested in learning more about the priesthood or religious life, contact the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Metuchen at 732-562-1990 ext. 1700 or by email at vocations@diometuchen.org or visit www.diometuchen.org/vocations.

This Week at Saint John's

Mass Schedule

January 15 & 16

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Celebrant.....Fr. Mickiewicz
 Deacon..... E. Roberts
 Lector M. Harrison
 Altar Server Malone Family
 Ministers of the Eucharist..... B. Garcia, L. Garcia,
 A. Germino, J. Gardner

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Celebrant.....Fr. Mickiewicz
 Lector C. Bitters
 Altar Server Olesiak Family
 Ministers of the Eucharist..... D. Sima, S. Janks, K. Malley

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

Celebrant.....Fr. Mickiewicz
 Lector B. Hunt
 Altar Server Hunt Family
 Ministers of the Eucharist..... B. Martalus, L. Gerristead,
 B. Gerristead, M. MacKenzie, C. Carroll

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, January 11

7:00 p.m. Marion Thompson req. Al Sterphone

Wednesday, January 12

9:30 a.m. People of the Parish

Friday, January 14

7:00 a.m. Marcella Bozza req. Linda Doerr

Saturday, January 15

5:30 p.m. Jenny Campbell req. Lou & Liz Livoti

Sunday, January 16

8:00 a.m. Ernest Jandersit req. Janks Family
 10:30 a.m. John DeStefano req. Connolly Family

Parish Calendar

Sunday, January 9 — Together in Charity/The Baptism of the Lord

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

Monday, January 10 — St. Sethryda

10:00 a.m. SHIP (Office Center)
 6:00 p.m. Zumba (Church Center)
 7:00 p.m. Fundraising Meeting (Office Center)

Tuesday, January 11 — St. Theodosius of Antioch

9:30 a.m. Quilting (Office Center)
 6:00 p.m. De-decorating (Church Center)
 7:00 p.m. Mass (Neumann Residence)
 7:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting (Office Center)

Wednesday, January 12 — St. Vitalis

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

Thursday, January 13 — St. Hilary

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

Friday, January 14 — St. Engelmar

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

Saturday, January 15 — Ss. Maura & Britta

Sunday, January 16 — Food Pantry Weekend

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

Pastor's Schedule

Sunday, January 9

3:00 p.m. NYC

Monday, January 10

7:00 p.m. Fundraising Meeting (Office Center)
 8:30 p.m. Fr. Simo's flight back

Tuesday, January 11

2:00 p.m. Therapy (Away)
 7:00 p.m. Mass (Neumann Residence)
 7:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting (Office Center)

Wednesday, January 12

9:30 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence)
 12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting (Office Center)
 6:00 p.m. Sadlier at Diocese

Thursday, January 13

2:00 p.m. Therapy (Away)

Friday, January 14

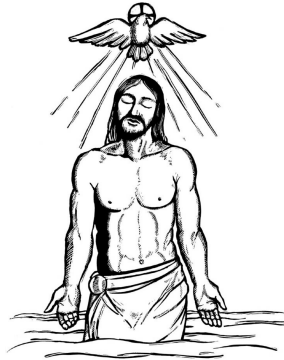
7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence)

The Baptism of the Lord — Year A

Remember in Your Prayers

Irene Adams	Michael Lamotte
Ms. Ally	Harry Larson
Joe Angelina	John Lauler
Pat Arat	Kevin Leahy
Antonia Baasten	Holly Lear
Kate Bachman	Jewel LeVine
Richard Baker	Michele Makos
John Ballard	Taylor Maleski
Peter Barbieri	Lily Anna Mastro
Agnes Barhart	Silas Mastro
Alice Beardsmore	Tom Martin
Carol Becker	Judy Martino
Maria Beckman	Marie Mazzoni
Mary Anna Bennett	Susan McHugh
Eugene Brzezienski	Patrick McKenna
Shirley Bumen	Brett Melworn
James Burns	Tyler Messenger
John Burns	George Meyer
Eileen Caffin	George Milke
Angie Caponetti	Betsey Miller
Barbara Carbonneau	Michael Milto
Joseph Carpentiere	Nina Montouri
Jose Castro	Erica Morgan
Lou Citarelli	Robert Olivetti
Riley Clark	Gloria Omstead
Lorraine Cochrane	Floyd Opyke
Peggy Colaneri	Daisy Ort
Gerard Cook	Bill O'Toole
Valerie Cordero	Nilsa Perez-Parsons
Kristine Orvos Cresti	John Pfeufer
Natalia Cresti	Steve Plume
Dalton Cummins	Brian Plushanski
Joseph D'Achino	John & Nicole Ramsden
Sr. Ann Damian	Albert Rayburn
Percival Davids	Tom Regan
Maria Elena Dawson	Ed Reinagel
Virginia DeCasino	Alissa Marie Ricciardi
Peter Demchur	Pat Roach
Dorothy Deo	Julie Ruby
Nick DeVincenzo	John Sawczuk
Anthony DeVito	Maria Sawczuk
Ann Dodwell	Ed Scharf
Betty Doyle	Chris Seltzer
Paul DuPre	Abe Shalaby
Courtney Ellis	Paul Shubeck
Jacob Fakelmann	Sister Mary George
Hannah Farrington	Marianna Sivori
Akiea Finn	Jim Sklenar
Anthony Fiorillo	Christopher Skuza
Ann Flemming	Austen James Slinger
Ryan Flynn	Carol Smarsh
Helen Galligan	Colleen Smith
Theresa Galvano	Jonathan Solis
Frank Gargiulo	Felicia Steward
Maria Gargiulo	William Stortz
Jayne Giese	Timothy Struble
Alice Giordano	Evelyn Sulenski
Jerry Goski	Mary Sulenski
Sophia Goski	Julie Suplee
Robert Govett	Tracey Sutch
Rose Gradone	Margaret Sweeney
Angela Grieco	Joan Thompson
Christina Grillo	John Toolan
Dorothy Gross	Rose Uricchio
Colleen Hendzrak	Robert Villani
Tyler Hodulik	Dayelle Watts
Anita Horan	Harvey Whille
Richard Hughes	John William
Brittney Iannitto	Gloria Wood
Jeannine Imperiale	Elizabeth Wodrich
Nona Janks	Lynn Yondolino
Diana Janowski	John J. Zelesny
Bob Jenkinson	Joey Zieba
John Kaemmerer	Michael Zocchi
Rosemary Kimbal	
Mary Kirchner	
Frank Kostecki	
Spencer Kydd	

THE BELOVED ONE



On this day, the mystery of Jesus as God's Son, the Word himself, is revealed by words spoken from the heavens. The Spirit, in the guise of a dove, overshadows Jesus as he comes out of the waters of the Jordan. These divine signs show us that Jesus is the special anointed one filled with God's power and ready to begin his saving work as the Christ/Messiah for each of us. His work leads to the sacrifice of the Cross—with the Resurrection—and to the Eucharist that nourishes us on his Passover.

The Baptism of the Lord, Year A. Illustration © 2001 K. Sullivan. Text, Philip J. Sandstrom, STD © 2001, OCP. All rights reserved.

TOGETHER IN CHARITY

This Weekend

This weekend, the annual "Together in Charity" collection will be taken up at all Masses. The proceeds of this collection help to fund Catholic Charities' Parish Emergency Assistance Program, which provides 24 hour/seven days a week assistance to parishes faced with individuals and families with serious and urgent financial, housing or medical needs. To date, this year, 58% of the parishes in the Diocese have availed themselves of this program and \$175,000 in emergency aid has been disbursed. Please give generously to this collection and contribute to making this a grace-filled new year for a family or individual in crisis.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

This ministry, which is an extension of our Religious Education Program, is designed to give all children, Kindergarten-5th grade the experience of hearing God's Word from their perspective. The readings, prayers and Homily are prayerfully prepared with a child's view of life, in mind. Each child who gathers in the Narthex with the adult leaders has an opportunity to be an active part of the Mass Liturgy designed exclusively for them. It's a perfect chance to enrich a child's spiritual development during Mass.

Check the bulletin or call the church office for dates that Children's Liturgy of the Word is gathering at 10:30 Mass.

Any adult, young adult or teen who is interested should contact Regina De-Stefano at 908-713-6839.

Remembered at Mass



We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered in the Eucharistic Prayer: **Michael Kursar — Robert Girard — Beverly Holub — Mary Nolan — Derek Graffis — Kam Hassidim — Olga Charkut**

Deceased: **Olga Charkut**, mother of Mary Vincenzi. May she find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord and may her family find strength in the Lord and comfort and support from family and friends.

Parish News

FAREWELL AND THANKS TO FATHER ŠIMO MARŠIĆ

We were indeed honored to have **Father Šimo** with us this Christmas. He celebrated his 37th birthday with us on the 1st of January. Can you believe that it is 7 years since we celebrated his 30th birthday here?

I am truly appreciative that Father gave up his family and friends to spend his vacation with us and especially for helping me. His presence was good for my soul as well as my ailing body. It was a great blessing for me. I am sure that you all shared in this blessing. Thank you, Father.

Father returns to Sarajevo on Monday the 10th. Thanks to **Bill Harrison** who picked him up and to the **McCabe's** for taking him to the airport. Thanks to all who entertained us during the holidays.

TRANSFER OF MINISTRIES

MARILYN WICKEL has coordinated the Liturgical Ministries for the past several years. She is no longer able to do this. We appreciate the long and faithful service that she has rendered for the community. This is an important job in the smooth running of liturgy. She has done so with great dedication. The community has been well served by her ministry. I personally am truly grateful. Thank you Marilyn.

EARL ROBERTS will pick up where Marilyn has left off. I appreciate his acceptance of this role. May I also remind you that those assigned must procure a substitute unless they have exhausted all resources. Please do not put on the sign in sheet or schedule to get a substitute. These MINISTRIES are very vital and important ministries and we depend on your faithful execution of them. If you know vacation plans or other dates when you are not available please notify Earl before the next schedule. Earl will be in touch to update the list as to your usual availability. Sometimes a ministry is not just out of convenience and requires a stretch to be present when needed. Please bear with us as we work this out and cooperate with Earl. I am grateful to him for taking this over.

ST. JOHN'S FAITH FORMATION BLOG

There are a number of Faith Formation Models being used by parishes across the United States. We will be examining all of them to help us understand these models and evaluate their fit to the needs of our St. John community.

The **Traditional Model** is weekly or biweekly classes for children. This classroom model is the one we are most familiar with. Here at St. John's our biweekly classes are lectionary based.

In some circumstances, **Home Schooling** has been used. This is usually used in response to some special need of the families. In Home Schooling, parents meet and receive guidance and work assignments for their children. They then work with their children at home in order to help their children grow in knowledge and faith of God.

In more recent times, **Intergenerational** or **Whole Community Catechesis** is being developed and experienced in many more parishes. Our Saturday Catechesis Gathering which meets once a month is based on this model. To get a better understanding of this model and how it is being used in parishes, we will be reviewing the programs of St. David the King in Princeton Junction and St. Matthias in Somerset. To view a video that explains St. David's Parish Family Ministry see the link below. We will be featuring St. Matthias' G.I.F.T. or Growing in Faith Together program in the next post.

Continued on next page

Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes Saturday, December 6, 2010

Committee Meeting:

- **Dr. Fay** attended the meeting and presented and update on the Religious Education portion of Five Year Plan.

Old and Continuing Items of Business:

- The next Town Meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2011. The topic will be Parish finances.
- There will be a Vitality Coffee on February 20, 2011 after the 10:30 a.m. Mass hosted by the Pastoral Council. Pastoral Council members will be available at that time to provide information and answer questions for parishioners interested in joining the Council.

New Items of Business:

- Father Šimo will arrive on December 17 and will be here for Christmas week.

Next meeting: Monday, January 24, 2011

Minutes prepared by Pam Casserly

Pastoral Council Members

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Eileen Papson papson@comcast.net
Marilyn Wickel mfwickel@embarqmail.com



Parish News

ZUMBA!

Coming soon to St. John's: **Zumba Fitness!!** What is it?? Zumba is a Latin and international music-based dance workout. Dance experience is not required; all you need is the desire to move and have fun! So come join us on Monday evenings at the church center, beginning January 10 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. and work off those Christmas cookies!

If you have questions, please contact Arminda at quiltingblockhead@gmail.com or Maggie at mhbaumann@earthlink.net The cost is \$5/class and proceeds will go to St. John's. Wear comfortable workout clothes, sneakers and be sure to bring a water bottle. To keep the exercise area safe and protect the wood floors, please consider wearing your street shoes to church and changing to sneakers before entering the church space.

Most recently, a **Summer Alternative model** has proven to be successful. This catechesis occurs during two weeks in the summer. The children spend ten consecutive mornings Monday through Friday participating in catechetical lessons and activities. This takes the place of Traditional or Intergenerational classes which start in September. It has been found that children learn more from this focused catechetical experience while they are on summer vacation from the demands of their public school education. To find out more about this model read "*Reinventing Religious Education*" at <http://www.trentonmonitor.com/main.asp?SectionID=5&SubSectionID=42&ArticleID=1417> or you can more easily access the article by doing a Google search for "Reinventing Religious Education" and choosing the first website on the list. At the beginning of this article from the Trenton Monitor you can view a video that shows you the Summer Catechesis program at St. Anselms. Further down in the article is a link to view St. David's Intergenerational Family Catechesis.

Many parishes have separate models for **Sacramental Preparation**. While some parishes continue to include this catechesis in their traditional and intergenerational classes many parishes have developed separate programs to involve the parents and the parish community in the sacramental preparation of children. Along with making the parents more equipped to prepare their own child, the parents receive adult level catechesis on the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.

We continue to invite you to post any comments you would like to share on our parish blog. The link to our blog is on our parish homepage underneath the link to the Lifelong Catechesis presentation of last November's Town Meeting.

Social Ministry

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels needs volunteer drivers in our area. Serve homebound senior neighbors a hot noontime meal. The commitment to drive is only **once** a month. It will take only an hour or two once a month to get that good feeling of giving and making a difference. Call the Meals on Wheels office at 908-284-0735 to offer your time or for more information. Help Meals on Wheels help others. – "*Many Thanks!*" Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon County delivered 65,000 meals to 450 homebound people in 2009 and the need increases annually.

LETTER FROM OUR SPONSOR CHILD

The following is a letter from our sponsor child in the Philippines, Angel Fajardo Cerdana.

Dear St. John Newmann Church,

First of all I would like to greet you a pleasant day. I hope your always fine and in good condition and far from any kind of sickness.

About my studies, it is doing fine I'm fond of joining different organizations like sports club for me to improve my health and have more friends. I am happy to tell to you also that I was able to achieve my goal because I'm now in 3rd year high school and that I have passed the challenges which means one more year to go before I face another test in life, so I could be able to go to college.

About my family, I thank God that we're able to help each other to meet life's trials. My two brothers are now living with us and very helpful in the daily chores in the house. I do always the tasks assigned on me and do it with a smile. We had a youth quarterly meeting which deals about environmental issues like global warming and climate change. You know it happens that those issues are now important and we have different symposiums and seminars especially since many people died after the typhoon on the day that brought the Philippines to distress last September (2009).

St. Vincent Foundation¹, let us to be more aware, as a human being that we should

protect the mother earth. I also learned that littering would greatly affect each of us even if he/she is in the other side of the world. They say that mother earth are in our hands. We have to be more responsible in caring for our nature.

I also received a birthday gift during my birthday celebration and a birthday cake which I shared to my family. I'm very happy that our birthdays are part of the foundations program. Before I forget let me say thank you for the continues support in my studies. I keep you all in my prayers that the Lord bless you always and gives you more blessings.

Take care, and God Bless,
Your Sponsored Youth,
Angle F. Cerdana #396190

¹ The St. Vincent Foundation administers the programs for the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging in Manila.

TWO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ASKED FOR HELP

GOOD NEWS HOME FOR WOMEN

Hundreds of women have walked through the doors of the Good News Home for Women in Flemington. They come from all walks of life in search of help and treatment for their addictions to the life-destroying effects of alcohol and drugs. The Good News Home for Women provides a, long-term, residential holistic treatment program in which spiritual birth and growth are stressed, along with the Christian 12-Step process.

FRIENDSHIP CENTER FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

Friendship Center for New Beginnings (FCNB) is a Christian outreach ministry to single mothers, and a 501(c)3 organization, which has a history of adapting successfully to the changing needs of single mothers in our community, since its foundation in 1983. Our mission is to empower single parent families to reach their full potential as individuals. We offer clients from the three counties of Hunterdon, Somerset, and Warren, parenting education and material support items, at our facility here in the Hunterdon County seat of Flemington, and we have a further 300 clients visit our educational website from all over the nation. We are also invited each year to local high school health fairs.

Please consider donating in support the work of these two groups by placing a donation in the basket at the Social Ministry Station in the Narthex or in an envelope (available on the Social Ministry Stand) marking it "gnhw" or "fcnbn" and dropping it in the Social Ministry drop-box in the Narthex. Our goal is to raise \$300 to help ensure the continued work of these organizations.

SHIP'S GALLEY SOUP KITCHEN

The next scheduled mission providing the noon meal to the SHIP's Galley Soup Kitchen in Somerville is scheduled for **Monday, January 10**. We have enough food and volunteers for this month but there's always next month. If you are interested, please call Anne Germino at 908-343-1618. All items must be at the Office Center by 10:00 a.m. that Monday, as scheduled. **Thank you for your continued support of this Ministry.**

GIVING TREE

Sincere thanks to all those who helped make this Christmas season a little brighter for those families, patients and residents of the organizations we made Christmas gift deliveries to last month.

A special thanks to **Mary Pat MacKenzie, Bernadette Andrejco** and **John Grant** for getting the tree, tags, calling, sorting and deliveries done this year.

REMINDERS

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

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 your 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!

PONDERING PAUSES

Now and Then

Why did the very important news, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," come through a voice from heaven? A voice from heaven can be heard only by those who are *there then*.

What about everybody else? Surely, it is important for all human beings to know that Jesus is God's beloved Son.

Isaiah says the Messiah will open the eyes of the blind, and the Gospels testify that Christ does do so. But he opens the eyes of only a few blind people, those few blind people who were *there then*.

What about all the other blind people, in other places, in other times?

Look at it this way: in the voice from heaven, in the miracles of Christ, God shows that he is committed to the good of particularity. He does not write his message in stars in heaven as an impersonal message directed to humankind. He does not issue an impersonal decree about blind people: let all the blind people of the world be healed! God does not deal with people as faceless members of a collective. He teaches and heals one person at a time, as each particular one comes to him.

God offers each individual the message that Christ is his beloved Son. Each person can have his blindness healed by believing in that message and by coming to Christ.

Of course, each needs to come to Christ as the particular individual he is, *here, now*.

Eleonore Stump, Professor of Philosophy, Saint Louis University

Sacrament Preparation

FIRST EUCHARIST

Sunday, January 23, 9:00 a.m., Valley View

There will be a meeting of all parents of First Eucharist children on **Sunday, January 23** at 9:00 a.m. in the Valley View School cafeteria. This will include time for parents to share an activity with their child and instruction to continue their child's preparation at home. Saturday catechesis families should bring their First Eucharist child with them. These children will be joining the second grade class on that day and then join their parents near the end of this class period.

FIRST EUCHARIST CLASSES

Saturday, January 29, 3:30 p.m., Church Center

First Eucharist classes for all children begin on Saturday, **January 29** at 3:30 p.m. in the Church Center.

CPI PARENT/CANDIDATE MEETING

Sunday, January 30, 9:00 a.m., Valley View

As our sixth graders begin to prepare for Confirmation, their parents will be joining them for an introductory and welcoming meeting about their Confirmation preparation. This will take place during class time on **Sunday, January 30** in the Valley View School cafeteria. All CPI candidates should bring at least one parent to this meeting which starts at 9:00 a.m.

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Friday, March 4, 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 Deacon Earl 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. 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 4 at 7:15 pm. The deadline for signing up to attend this program is Friday – February 18. For more information or to begin the process please call Rita at the parish office center at 832-2513 or use the online form from the parish website – www.ccsjn.org.**

BAPTISM HOST COUPLE NEEDED

St. John's needs the assistance of an individual or couple willing to join our Baptism Ministry team. As a team member you assist in helping to equip parents attending St. John's Baptism Program with the basic theology and symbols of the Sacrament. In addition, each individual or team couple assists in a welcoming manner as host at an assigned infant's Baptism.

If God's grace is urging you to volunteer to work in this ministry please call Earl Roberts at 832-2513 or email > eroberts@ccsjn.org !

Christian Formation (Catechesis)

“MATRIMONY: SACRAMENT OF ENDURING LOVE.”

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Focus: Jesus is the blessed and beloved Son of God
Jesus' baptism reveals the Spirit of the Lord that comes upon us all.

Scripture: Jesus came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3: 13-17

Reflection: What is your experience of someone whom you feel is special? What makes you special to others? Who is special to you? What makes people special?

Song: "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" #108

Story: Naming rights

It seemed like a good idea at the time. The family kept a small garden and a few chickens at their country home, so Dad decided that he would raise the family's Thanksgiving turkey himself. He built a pen in the backyard and fattened up the small bird on a diet of the healthiest grains and water. But Dad's great culinary dream died the moment the kids named the turkey Butterball. That changed everything. Once they named the turkey, the kids no longer saw dinner but a new friend with feelings and warmth and personality. *Dad, we can't eat Butterball!* So on Thanksgiving, while the family feasted on a store-bought nameless turkey, Butterball continued to reside happily in his backyard pen.

On the first day of the semester, the class is just a roster of student numbers. And some students remain only a number - they stay quietly in the background, say little in class, do nothing to distinguish themselves. But once the professor or teacher learns a student's name and begins to associate the name with that student's own abilities and potential, a new, creative dynamic takes place between teacher and student.

We harbor some hard opinions about certain nationalities and cultures - until we meet someone of that ethnicity, race or religion. Then the stereotype collapses and we see a human being just like us, with the same hopes and dreams and loves as we have.

Our perspective is transformed when we meet and learn another's name - he or she is then no longer a label or number or function, but a real human being.

To know another's name is the beginning of a relationship of love and trust and responsibility. In today's Gospel, the "voice" of God is heard identifying this Jesus as "my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." In our own baptisms, we embrace that same identity - we are given not just the name by which we will be addressed, but we are also given the name of Christ. That name is both a dignity and a responsibility. The baptism we received, however many years ago, was not a singular milestone or naming ceremony but an ongoing commitment that continues every day of our journey to the dwelling place of God. On this feast of the Lord's Baptism, let us celebrate the name of Christ we took on in the waters of our own baptisms and recommit ourselves to the work of being disciples of the Jesus of the Gospel of justice, reconciliation and servanthood.

Connections, January 2011

SATURDAY ADULT CATECHESIS OPEN TO ALL

One of the results of our Town Meeting is to invite all adults to share in the Saturday Morning Catechesis gathering that meets once a month. You are cordially invited to drop in any month to join our adult faith sharing on the Sunday scripture readings from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the following **Saturdays: January 22, February 12, March 12, April 9 and May 21.** We gather for prayer at 9:30 a.m. and at 11:00 a.m. there is time to socialize and continue conversations. You are welcome to drop in and participate in just the hour discussion from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. or join us for all or part of this monthly Catechetical gathering.

2011 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

This year's Souper Bowl of Caring Weekend will be held on February 5 and 6. This is a terrific service project for our Junior High students to collect donations and canned soup after Masses to benefit Elijah's Promise Soup Kitchen in New Brunswick. This weekend will be followed by the opportunity to serve the clients of Elijah's Promise on February 25 and March 12. A flyer will be given to Junior High students on January 9. **For more information, contact Jo Ann Jarvis at 832-2162.**



MILITARY PERSONNEL

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

2nd Lieutenant, Baumann Katherine
Petty Officer Behr, Fred, U.S. Navy
2nd LT Behrmann, John, USMC
Lt. Col. Blewitt, Joseph, U.S. Air Force
Capt. Bohanan, Luke P., U.S. Army
Sgt. Brisson, Mark D., USMC
LCpl Bunce, Evan, 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
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
CMDR Hopkins, John A., U.S. Navy
CPL Howard, Jeffrey, U.S. Army
GM3 Hurler, Shane
SSgt. Jirouschek, Thomas, U.S. Air Force
PFC Jones, Joshua, USMC
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
Capt. Larsen, Christopher M. U.S. Army
ET2 Linzmeyer, Travis, U.S. Navy
Chaplain (LT) Logan, Eddy, U.S. Navy
SGT Ludwig, Konrad, U.S. Army
Lt. Mallue, Edward Paul, Jr. U.S. Army
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. Omstead, David, USA
Capt. Omstead, Barbara, USA
SPC Osburn, Jared, U.S. Army
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
SSGT Vigilante, William, U.S. Air Force
Captain Wade, Dominic, U.S. Army
Capt., Warkentin, William J., USMC
Airman Basic Wiedmann, Alex J., US Air Force

CREATED TO CONNECT



God creates us with a need for connecting. We try to develop lasting relationships with other people, and we long for the perfect connection with our creator. He intends for us to experience life together and that is the reason He has united us as a Church.

Jesus taught us in both his ministry and life that the best use of our life is to love others, and the best way to love others is to make time for others. We are challenged to care for those in need – physically, emotionally, and spiritually. If we want to be loved we must act out of love. If we want to be forgiven, we must be willing to forgive.

All too often we excuse our own shortcomings while holding others accountable for theirs.

Hopefully, the Christmas season has reinvigorated our desire for a relationship with God, our family and our friends. As we live out this new liturgical year that we began with Advent let us try to act out of love in our lives. The alternative is that we never move past the point where the Apostles were right up through the last supper, squabbling amongst themselves, arguing about who was more worthy and never really thinking of those outside their circle. So preoccupied were they with themselves that they never understood and took to heart what Jesus had been telling them, even about his own death and resurrection.

CATHOLIC INQUIRY

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

RETURNING TO THE CHURCH?

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

YOUR PRAYERS

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

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.**

Diocesan News

CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, January 9, 5:00 p.m., St. Francis Cathedral, Metuchen

Celebrate the richness of the Christmas season with our music ministry! Join us Sunday, January 9 at 5:00 p.m. for our annual concert: **"A Cathedral Christmas"** at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Main Street, Metuchen.

The Cathedral Adult, Youth, Handbell and Children's Choirs will perform inspirational choral works from "O Holy Night" to the "Hallelujah Chorus," and you will enjoy singing favorite carols accompanied by our magnificent pipe organ and brass ensemble.

No tickets are required, and an offering will be taken for Cathedral Music Ministry. In the event of inclement weather, call (732) 548-0100 x235 after 2:00 p.m. on the day of the concert. Snow date is Wednesday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m. Please come celebrate with us!

2010 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Christ for One Another



Your contribution to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps to sustain the ministry of the Office of the Diaconate which extends its efforts in the recruitment, selection and training of men who, through prayer and discernment, have recognized their calling to the permanent diaconate. Please consider making a gift today. **To date, our parish has received \$30,111.25 in pledges/gifts to the 2010 Bishop's Annual Appeal from 121 families toward our goal of**

\$37,400.00. 80.5% to goal. Thank you!

Fundraising

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, February, 11, 2011 7:00 p.m.—until we stop dancing.

VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE

To benefit the Catholic Heart Workcamp trip this summer. Live music provided by Mike Griffin's GB's and a fabulous Italian dinner. More details to follow.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 9, 2011

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17
Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

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Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him.

— Mt 3:13-15

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Stewardship

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Monday, 1/10	J. Santoro
Tuesday, 1/11	M. McCall
Wednesday, 1/12	Angel Needed
Thursday, 1/13	B. Pannone

Grocery Cards

January 8 & 9	
5:30 p.m.	J. Eacovalle
8:00 a.m.	S. Pojedinec
10:30 a.m.	F. Cook
January 15 & 16	
5:30 p.m.	G. Best
8:00 a.m.	V. Santoro
10:30 a.m.	V. Hoffart

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of 1/9	T. Menzie
Week of 1/16	M. Buniva

Church Center Cleaning

January 14	Team C
January 21	Team D

Bulletin Transporters

January 14	B. Lee
January 21	A. Giametta



SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

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

319 families; 30 Time & Talent Responses, 24 Treasure Responses; 5 Youth Responses

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17

St. Paul says that God emptied himself, taking on the character of a man. He did not consider his Godhead something to cling to. This emptying of himself to take on the form of a man, along with our sins epitomizes the sharing of all that he has by becoming one with us. This is an unusual way to look at stewardship and sharing. God gave up all that made him who he was to take on our nature but he also shares with us that which is of his nature.

Doesn't this seem strange to share our nature and to share with us his nature? This is not just a sharing of blessings but the sharing of natures. We may indeed be a unique nature of stewardship. How do we emulate this depiction of the incarnation? When we die to self in order to give life to another we come close to understanding this phenomenon. By laying down our lives for another whom we love, we give up our self. We see this in Jesus and also in St. Maximillian Kolbe who takes the place of another prisoner who is slated to die. We do it in love but also in the supreme sacrifice of sharing our very selves in stewardship. We are not called on to do this but when we experience it then we are truly God's beloved.

Stewardship - Treasure

FINANCIAL UPDATE

For January 3, 2010

77 Weekly Donors	\$2,442.50
27 Monthly Donors	\$2,927.00
Loose Money.....	\$84.00
Total	\$5,483.50
19 Direct Deposit.....	\$843.75
30 January 1	\$988.00
238 Christmas.....	\$27,187.00

For January 2, 2011

53 Weekly Donors	\$1,660.00
24 Monthly Donors	\$2,415.00
Loose Money	\$70.00
Total	\$4,145.00
20 Direct Deposit.....	\$971.00
33 January 1	\$790.00
217 Christmas.....	\$26,922.00

Weekly Averages

December.....	\$5,575.00
November.....	\$5,727.19
October	\$5,795.00
September.....	\$5,608.00
August.....	\$5,315.00
July.....	\$6,544.00
June	\$4,687.00
May	\$5,296.00
April	\$5,732.00
March	\$5,616.00
February.....	\$6,165.00
January	\$5,668.00
Weekly Need	\$8,182.00

SPONSORING ST. MARY'S PARISH

In March 2009, we began sending profits from cash card sales on the third weekend of each month to St. Mary's parish in Coeburn, Virginia. If you don't use these cash cards but want to contribute to St. Mary's you may leave a donation in the basket provided in the Narthex. **In December, we collected \$225.00 in profits from the sale of Shop Rite, A&P and Kings cards to be sent to St. Mary's in Coeburn.**

CHRISTMAS FLOWER INTENTIONS

Horacio Alfaro
Edna & Thomas Altavilla
Eleanor & Querino Angeline
Maria Arias
Eileen Armstrong
Joe & Veretta Berg
Mom & Dad Bergmann
Emile & Rose Bilodeau
Vincent & Mary Biunno
Jacqui Blythe
Robert & Katherine Blythe
Harold, Sr. & Avelyne Brynildsen
Joseph Charkut
Marilyn Geist Cornelius
Anne Daly
George Dawson
Carl & Ella DiDia
Antonie & Isaura Domingues
Carmine & Marie Dominicus
Michael Donatiello
Henry Drucker
Edward Furlong
Fabiola Giametta
Vito Giametta
Robert Girard
Derek Graffis
Danny Handy
Leonard Handy
Leonard Handy
John Hasenfus
Ruth Hasenfus
Jean Hay
Mildred Healy
Andres Hernandez
Emanuel Hernandez
Joseph L. Hulseman
Maureen Infusino
Arlene Irace
Magdalena Jankauskas
Albin Janks
Linnea Janks
Gertrude & Harry Kaemmerer
Anna M. Kalafut
Joseph J. Kalafut, Sr.
George Kostecki
Lee & John Kostecki
Nancy Kostecki
Joseph & Margaret Kuber
Susan C. Kuhn
Helen Laban
Henry Laban
John B. Lacy
Helen Lance
Doris Leibowitz
Louis & Betty Livoti
Mark Livoti
George Mahoney
Kathy Mahoney

Zaira Mazzoni
Alyamo Mendezn
Marlena Milko
John P. Mulhern
Oliver Murnane
Florence Nee
Mary Nee
Robert & Elsie O'Neill
Robert O'Neill, Jr.
Agnes Oelkars
Linda Owens
Annette Patterson
Freida Philhower
Anna Pocius
Joseph W. Pojedinec, Sr.
Michael Powers
Mary Pyskaty
Wanda Pyskaty
William Pyskaty
Stanley & Mary Radomski
Alejandro Remon
Ana Remon
Gerhard Reslmaier
John & Susan Rimar
Janet Royal
Raymond Royal
Frank & Anna Scaglione
Michael Scalone
Ann Schettino
Anette Schettino Uss
Christine Schwitzer
Anna Sima
Michael & Ann Sofranko
Jack D. St. Amour
Jeffrey T. St. Amour
L.M. Stanski
Jesse Stout
Frank & Veronica Torczon
Richard Torczon
Agnes Vanderwall
Christian & Rita Wade
Julia Wares
Marta & Stan Wiepzynski
Marge & Ed Wocheski
John & Marian Zelinka
Robert E. Ziemba
Eileen Zocchi

Deceased Members of:

Barbone Family
Bennett Family
Bush Family
Cangelosi Family
Carlson Family
Castillo Family
Cole Family

Cruz Family
Dabrowski Family
Darmiento Family
DiMichele Family
Dowhan Family
Eacovalle Family
Gates Family
Grant Family
Griffin Family
Henne Family
Kelemen Family
Kelly Family
King Family
Kostiw Family
Lambert Family
Mackenzie Family
McCabe Family
McCormack Family
McKenna Family
Merriam Family
Moolick Family
Notaroberto Family
Olesiak Family
Pannone Family
Pelligrino Family
Peters Family
Prandato Family
Prosdocimi Family
Ruibal Family
Santoro Family
Schenone Family
Scurlock Family
Shelby Family
Speranza Family
Wade Family
Wickel Family
Wray Family
Zelesny Family
Zigmantanis Family

Intentions of the:

C. Brantner Klacik
R. Klacik, Jr.
Lehnert Family

In Loving Honor of:

Olga Charkut

Stewardship Opportunities

STEWARDSHIP

Time & Talent Opportunities

As Stewards, we share out time, talent, and our material gifts as an outward sign of the relationship we hold with Jesus in God.

We are a Stewardship Parish sharing time, talent and treasure as a way of life.

On-going Stewardship Opportunities:

Worship/Liturgy

- Greeter/Hospitality
- Lector
- Altar Preparation
- Minister of the Eucharist
- Music Ministry
- Children's Liturgy of the Word

Formation:

- Religious Ed Advisory Board
- Catechist

Pastoral/Organizational:

- Pastoral Council
- Finance Council
- Property Management Committee

Connxions:

- Team Member
- Connxions Companion
- RCIA Team
- Baptism Preparation Team

Stewardship:

- Committee Member
- Fair Trade
- Shop Rite & A&P Card Sales

Other ways I can help:

Please complete the contact information and check appropriate volunteer section. Return by way of the collection basket—Social Ministry box—send or drop off at the Office Center—go to web site and fill out under forms.

Name(s): _____

Day Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Email: _____

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

If you are new or visiting you can learn more about the parish by visiting our website www.ccsjn.org. You can email Father Bill jwmickiewicz@ccsjn.org if you have any particular questions. If you want us to contact you, email the parish or check off your request or information you want to communicate below.

- [] new in the area [] visitor [] planning to live in the area
- [] parishioner [] former parishioner [] been in the area awhile
- [] change of [] address [] email [] phone number [] marital status
- [] wish to join parish [] would like envelopes [] would like info on direct deposit contributing

- Christmas De-Decorating
- Grocery Card Sales
- Companions Ministry
- Connxions Ministry
- Greeter
 - 5:30 p.m. Mass
 - 8:00 a.m. Mass
 - 10:30 a.m. Mass
- Vitality Coffee Help
- Office Angel