

PARISH STAFF

(NOTE: Please use the 703 area code for all numbers.)

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PASTORAL CARE

INFANT BAPTISM: Please call to register for the Baptism Class, offered monthly. English 703-860-8510; Spanish 703-860-8510, x353.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA):

Please call Mickie Abatemarco at 703-390-2340, to inquire about becoming Catholic.

MARRIAGE: Begin preparation with one of our parish priests at least six months before the desired marriage date.

SICK: Please call the office if you know of someone who is hospitalized, seriously ill, or home-bound.

**Please Note: Material for the bulletin must be submitted no later than Thursday, ten days prior to the intended publication date.*

THIS WEEK AT SJN...

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Faith Formation Classes

Car Raffle Ticket Sales

Knights of Columbus Charity Fundraising Breakfast: 8:30am; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

RCIA Dismissal: 10:00am; Conference Room

Youth Pastoral Council: 3:30pm; Youth Room

High School Teens: 6:15pm; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

MONDAY, MARCH 6

Faith Formation Classes

Road to Emmaus: 10:00am; Conference Room

Boy Scout Troop 124: 7:00pm; A1/A2

Power of Story: 7:00pm; de Sales Chapel

LECTIO for Lectors and Anyone Else: 7:30pm; Youth Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Faith Formation Classes

French Conversation: 9:30am; A1

Taize: 7:00pm; de Sales Chapel

Knights of Columbus: 7:30pm; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

Pastoral Council: 7:30pm; Conference Room

RCIA Catechumenate: 7:30pm; A1/A2

RCIA Inquiry: 7:30pm; Bridal Room

RCIA Purification and Enlightenment: 7:30pm; Youth Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Faith Formation Classes

The Papacy – From Italian Prince to Universal Pastor: 10:00am; B6

Angel Choir: 5:00pm; Music Room

Children's Choir: 5:30pm; Music Room

Faith Formation Town Hall: 7:00pm; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

Legión de María: 7:00pm; B4

The Papacy – From Italian Prince to Universal Pastor: 7:00pm; B6

Social Justice: 7:00pm; Conference Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Mothers' Group Playgroup: 9:30am; Early Religious Room

Newcomers' Book Club: 10:00am; A1

Contemplative Prayer and Lection Divina: 10:00am; Marian Chapel

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 3:00pm; de Sales Chapel

Sales Chapel

Contemplative Prayer: 7:00pm; Bridal Room

Legion of Mary: 7:00pm; B4

Life After Sunday: 7:00pm; B1

Stations of the Cross in Spanish: 7:00pm; de Sales Chapel

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

Mothers' Group Bible Study: 10:00am; Early Religious Room

Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper: 6:30pm; de Sales Chapel

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Blood Drive: 8:00am—1:00pm; Main Parking Lot

Car Raffle Ticket Sales

Knights of Columbus KOVAR Event

Prayer Vigil For Peace: 4:00pm; de Sales Chapel

Spanish Prayer Group: 6:30pm; de Sales Chapel

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Faith Formation Classes

Car Raffle Ticket Sales

Knights of Columbus KOVAR Event

Sunday Coffee: 8:30a.; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

RCIA Dismissal: 10:00am; Conference Room

High School Teens: 6:15pm; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



DEAR PARISHIONERS:

This past Wednesday we began the annual observance of Lent which is the special season for the ascent to the holy mountain of Easter. I encourage all of us to see this Lenten journey as a time to reflect upon our relationship with the Lord as well as to be opened to transformation in our faith lives. There are many opportunities to help us journey through this special season, including the annual **Live Jesus** on March 18, here at St. John Neumann. This is a morning dedicated to learning and reflecting on our spiritual lives through the lens of Salesian Spirituality.

On another note, I write today to inform you of a personnel change in regards to the Oblates here at St. John Neumann. Fr. Jerry, Dunne, OSFS is being transferred to Immaculate Conception parish in Elkton, Maryland. As you will see from Fr. Jim Greenfield's note below there is a real pastoral need for a parochial vicar at this Oblate parish. I want to thank Fr. Jerry for his two years of service to our parish. He will certainly be missed. Next Sunday, March 12, Fr. Jerry will celebrate the 9:30am Mass, which will be followed by a reception in the Brown-McCarthy Auditorium. This will give us the opportunity to express our gratitude to Fr. Jerry and to wish him well in his new assignment.

Our provincial, Fr. Jim Greenfield, OSFS, writes:

"I am grateful to everyone at St. John Neumann for the warm welcome offered to our confrere, Fr. Jerry Dunne, OSFS, who was assigned to your parish almost two years ago. At this time in our province, there is a great need at our parish in Elkton, MD, Immaculate Conception, which presently has no parochial vicar. Thus, in consultation with the pastor there, Fr. Jim Yeakel, I believe Fr. Dunne is an ideal Oblate to transfer to our Elkton parish as soon as possible.

I reiterate my thanks to your parish community and also thank Fr. Dunne for his ministry among you. I know that Immaculate Conception Parish will be enhanced by everything Fr. Dunne has learned from you about being an amazingly vibrant, faith filled parish community!"

Prayer and Liturgy



WE WELCOME those who have recently entered into our faith through the waters of Baptism: **Annie Charlene Hennessy**, daughter of John and Amy.



THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7;
Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17;
Romans 5:12-19;
Matthew 4:1-11

Today's Gospel focuses on the temptations of Christ. St. Francis de Sales notes: Our Lord did not seek temptation. Yet, He allowed the Spirit to lead him into the desert to be tempted to show us how we ought to resist it. No one who comes to serve God can avoid temptations. But no one should seek temptation. Still, if the Spirit leads us to a place where we encounter it, we must have confidence in the Spirit to strengthen us.

As soon as you are conscious of being tempted, be like children when they see a bear out in the country. They immediately run into the arms of their father or mother, or at least call to them for help and protection. Turn in the same way to God, for we must not trust in our own strength or courage to overcome evil. If the temptation continues, turn your thoughts to some good, commendable activities. When good thoughts enter and find a place in your heart, they will drive away evil thoughts.

No matter what temptations may come to you, and no matter what pleasure accompanies them, as long as you refuse consent, they do not offend God. Let the enemies of our salvation stand continually at our heart's door so as to gain entrance. As long as this act of refusal remains in our heart, we may rest assured that divine love, the life of the soul, remains within us. Through continual prayer, the sacraments, and confidence in God, our strength will return and we will live a healthy and happy life.

Walk confidently, then, and remain in peace. Live well in gentleness, simplicity and humility. If you believe in God and the truth of God's word, nothing can harm you. Resolve not to sin, but do not be astonished or troubled when you do fall into sin. We must confine ourselves to the goodness of God who, for all that, does not love us less.

(Adapted from the writings of St. Francis de Sales)

"The bed of the sick is an altar of sacrifice." St. Francis de Sales

PLEASE PRAY for those who have asked for our prayers, Bob Biegalski, Carrie Gillotte, Peg Haberman, Maria Christina Louis, **Nancy Maiello**, Kristina Weaver, and for all the sick.

When you call to add a name to our prayer list, please leave your name and number as a contact and let us know what the illness is. Before calling, please be sure that you have spoken to the person or a member of the family about adding their name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.

*Names of those who are sick or injured will be kept on the list for three weeks unless you specifically request a shorter period of time or call to ask that the name be removed. **Names that are new this week are in boldface type.***



SATURDAY MARCH 4
 5:00pm (Chapel) Mary Elizabeth Curry †
 5:00pm (Church) Rosemary Palmisano †

SUNDAY MARCH 5
 7:30am Michael Forbes †
 9:30am Patrick Kane †
 11:30am People of the Parish
 1:30pm Vicki Emmert †
 5:00pm Andrzej Fiedler †

MONDAY MARCH 6
 9:00am Michael Anthony Stott †
 12:10pm Jean Dolan †

TUESDAY MARCH 7
 6:30am Mercedes Pastor †
 9:00am Richard Hodes †

WEDNESDAY MARCH 8
 9:00am Rosemary Burns †
 12:10pm Bob Suchomel †

THURSDAY MARCH 9
 6:30am Evelyn Mercatini †
 9:00am Frank Carroll †

FRIDAY MARCH 10
 9:00am Eric Laudeman, OSFS †
 12:10pm Richard E. White †

SATURDAY MARCH 11
 5:00pm Louis and Martha St. Pierre ††

SUNDAY MARCH 12
 7:30am Donald A. Deeds †
 9:30am Janet Dunn †
 11:30am Toni Conroy †
 1:30pm Maria Maura Tobar †
 5:00pm People of the Parish

UPCOMING SPECIAL LITURGIES

Sunday, March 19 9:30am RCIA First Scrutiny



PRAY FOR AN OBLATE

DAILY We continue our daily prayers for the priests and brothers in the Wilmington-Philadelphia province of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales by praying this week for:

- March 6 Reverend William N. Dougherty, OSFS
- March 7 Brother Robert J. Drelich, OSFS
- March 8 Reverend Hugh E. Duffy, OSFS
- March 9 Reverend Gerald M. Dunne, OSFS
- March 10 Reverend John A. Finn, OSFS
- March 11 Reverend Lewis S. Fiorelli, OSFS
- March 12 Reverend John J. Fisher, OSFS

LITURGY PRESIDERS NEXT WEEKEND

Assuming there are no changes, the presiders for the weekend of March 11 - 12 are:

Saturday	5:00pm	Father Don with Deacon Joe
Sunday	7:30am	Father Don
Sunday	9:30am	Father Jerry
Sunday	11:30am	Father Joe with Deacon Dennis
Sunday	1:30pm	Father Rosario Anaya, CICM With Deacon Atanacio
Sunday	5:00pm	Father Bill

BEGINNING THIS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, AND THE FOLLOWING WEDNESDAYS OF LENT, THE

LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU Are you having difficulty forgiving an acquaintance or loved one? Have you considered seeking God's healing first? In fact, that's what the Sacrament of Reconciliation is all about. On Wednesdays during Lent, between 6:30 - 8:00pm, come to St. John Neumann and experience God's compassionate love in this Sacrament. To help you reflect and grow daily this Lent, sign up for daily texts or emails by texting "Lent" to 84576. To find times at other parishes and for additional resources visit www.thelightison.org.



NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS: Next weekend we celebrate the **Second Sunday of Lent**. Please prepare for Mass and the Homily by reflecting on these texts from God's Word:

Genesis 12:1-4 God's initiative in the call of Abraham and Abraham's obedient response reverse the alienation caused by the spread of Sin. The fivefold repetition of blessing in this passage renews the hope shattered by the fivefold repetition of "cursed" in Genesis.

Psalms 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 Lord, let Your mercy be on us as we place our trust in You.

2 Timothy 1:8-10 Life and death, suffering and immortality are inextricably mixed in the present. But all believers boldly confront the struggles which come from this situation. It is impossible to proclaim the gospel if we do not accept our share of suffering.

Matthew 17:1-9 The Jewish Feast of Tabernacles celebrated the dedication of the temple when the cloud, which was both the revelation and the veiling of God's presence, filled the sanctuary. In the transfiguration the glory of the Father shines on the face of Jesus, the new temple of God. But no earthly tent can contain God. Jesus, and His disciples after Him, must pass through death to glory.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

RCIA RITE OF SENDING

The season of Lent began in the early centuries of the Church to mark the time when those who had been studying the teachings of the Church, praying, and atoning for sin in order to be baptized, began their final period of preparation. In our parish we have witnessed our catechumens and candidates as they, too, have faithfully journeyed toward the initiation sacraments. Their faith inspires and challenges us. The Second Vatican Council defined Lent as "preparation for or renewal of baptismal life in Christ, centered in the dying and rising of Christ." How are we preparing to renew and energize our own baptismal commitment to share in the mission of Jesus Christ? In what ways, large and small, can we help bring forth the reign of God in our world?



This Sunday at the 9:30am Mass we celebrate the Rite of Sending for Election with our catechumens. During the rite, sponsors witness to the readiness of the catechumens for reception of the initiation sacraments. Each signs our parish Book of the Elect.

In the afternoon, the catechumens along with their sponsors, will go to St. Thomas More Cathedral for the Rite of Election. Based on the testimony given by the sponsors and our support of their readiness for the sacraments, Bishop Burbidge will declare them to be **elect**, chosen by God for Baptism this Easter. Bishop Burbidge will sign our Book of the Elect which will be on display in the narthex throughout the Lenten and Easter seasons.

Our catechumens are Hever Fernando Melgar Arriaga, Enedina Trejo Cortes, Kathy Dominguez, Michael Claudio Hart, George Matovu, Ashlee Murray, Amanda Roth, and Alexander Shipp.

Please pray for our Catechumens! At the entrances to the church are baskets containing the names of the catechumens who will be initiated into the Catholic Church during the Easter Season. We invite you to select a name from the basket and pray for this person throughout Lent. You are also invited to send a note of encouragement and support to the person whose name you select. These can be placed in the box at the Welcome Desk.

RCIA PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

Lent is a season of renewal for the whole community. For the elect (the unbaptized who are preparing to celebrate the three sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil), this Lenten time is called the period of purification and enlightenment. It is a time of intense spiritual preparation intended to "purify the minds and hearts of the elect and to enlighten them with a deep and personal knowledge of Christ". (RCIA 139). Throughout the RCIA process they have been growing in their knowledge of Church teachings, learning to pray, reflecting on the scriptures, and practicing works of charity. Now they search their consciences to uncover any area of sin that hinders their full embrace of Christ and his Church.

TAIZÉ SERVICES "Change our hearts, Lord!" Looking for a new kind of Lenten activity? Try a Taizé service! Prayer in the spirit of the Taizé community is a meditative form of common prayer, expressing a basic reality of faith through songs in repetition to reinforce the meditative quality of prayer. "Right at the depth of the human condition, lies the longing for a presence, the silent desire for a communion. Let us never forget that this simple desire for God is already the beginning of faith."

Brother Alois, Prior of Taizé

Taizé services this Lent begin this Tuesday, March 7, and continue on Tuesdays, March 14 and 21 and Wednesday, April 12, at 7:00pm in the deSales Chapel.

SCHEDULE OF LENTEN LITURGIES AND SERVICES

Daily Mass

Monday - Friday, 9:00am
Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30am
Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 12:10pm

Stations of the Cross

Stations in Spanish - Thursdays, 7:00pm
Fridays - 6:30pm, followed by Soup Supper with Speakers

Taizé Prayer

Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21 and Wednesday, April 12, 7:00pm

Confessions

Saturdays - 10:00 - 10:30am
(except Holy Saturday)
Wednesdays - 6:30 - 8:00pm
March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12

Exposition and Adoration

Thursday, March 9; 3:00 - 8:00pm

Live Jesus

Saturday, March 18; 8:00am

Lenten Mission

Sunday, April 2 - Tuesday April 4; 7:00pm

Joint Lenten Penance Service

Thursday, April 6, 7:30pm
at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Vienna

As we near the end of our Lenten journey, the schedules for Palm Sunday, Holy Week services, Triduum and Easter will be included in this column.



EXPOSITION AND ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

"Go and find Him when your patience and strength run out and you feel alone and helpless. Jesus is waiting for you in the chapel. Say to Him, 'Jesus, you know exactly what is going on. You are all I have, and you know all things. Come to my help.' And then go, and don't worry about how you are going to manage. That you have told God about it is enough. He has a good memory."

St. Jeanne Jugan

Come and adore the one who knows you best and loves you perfectly. Our monthly Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is this Thursday, March 9 from 3:00 – 8:00pm in the de Sales Chapel. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex today on the Welcome Desk.

PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE Please join us next Saturday, March 11, for our monthly parish prayer vigil, as we pray that the Gospel and Catholic social teaching may inspire the faithful to advocate for just public policies. The vigil is from 4:00 to 4:45pm in the de Sales Chapel. We pray the Scriptural Rosary for Justice and Peace, listen to God's Word in Scripture, and offer our intentions to our merciful Savior. For more information, contact Ken Fredgren at fredgren.k@gmail.com or Bob More at rmore.paxchristi@gmail.com.

LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOLLOWED

BY SOUP SUPPERS WITH SPEAKERS Join us while we pray as a community on Friday evenings during Lent. Stations of the Cross will begin in the church at 6:30pm. Afterward there will be soup supper in the Brown-McCarthy auditorium, with various speakers addressing Criminal Justice Reform, "From Punishment to Justice and Mercy - Setting Things Aright". Our schedule:

- March 10: Care For Our Common Home, Just Faith and Pax Christi; John McPherson on Lamb Center
- March 17: Young Adults; Karen Clifton on Catholic Mobilizing Network (advocacy against the death penalty). There will be no supper because of Live Jesus set-up in the Brown-McCarthy Auditorium.
- March 24: Knights of Columbus; Derwin Overton on Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources (OAR) and Bill Richie and Dan Young on Fairfax County Jail Volunteers
- March 31: Boy Scout Troop 124, Mothers' Group and Pastoral Council; Keri Galloway on Guest House and Carol Eager on Kairos Prison Ministry (Women)
- April 7: Health Ministry, Music and Liturgy and Shawl Ministry; John Horejsi of Social Action Linking Together (SALT) on advocacy for prisoners and families
- April 14: No supper; Living Stations of the Cross presented by High School Teens at 3:00pm in de Sales Chapel

Parish Information

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHARITY FUNDRAISING

BREAKFAST THIS SUNDAY! Even if you had breakfast before you came to Mass, please drop in to the auditorium between 8:30 - 11:30am to say hello to the wonderful staff from Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!), this month's beneficiary. SOAR! works very hard raising funds for and awarding grants to religious congregations that need help caring for their elderly and infirm members. This organization is near and dear to the hearts of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, with several priests having served on their Board of Directors, and having themselves been a recipient of a grant years ago.



MAKE A LIFE-SAVING DONATION

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their quarterly Red Cross Blood Drive next Saturday, March 11, from 8:00am to 1:00pm. There is one change in logistics of this particular drive. Because the classrooms usually used are not available on this date, the drive itself will take place in a Bloodmobile in the parking lot. Donors will need to come into the church lobby to register, and then go into the Bloodmobile to have blood drawn. Donors can register online using sponsor code STJOHNNEUMANNVA at www.redcrossblood.org. You may call the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767 to register or get answers to eligibility questions. Or, call John Moran, of the Knights, at 202-586-8803 if you need help. To accelerate your check-in on March 11, go online before you come, and use the RapidPass function to do your pre-readings and questionnaire.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Save the date! Our parish Vacation Bible School will be held July 10-14, from 9:00am to noon. This year's theme is Maker Fun Factory - Created by God, Built for a Purpose. Registration forms for campers and volunteers will be available soon! Please join us for an amazing week!



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS NEXT



SUNDAY, MARCH 12 AT 2:00AM It's time for us to "spring ahead" into Eastern Daylight Time. Before you go to bed Saturday night, remember to **set your clocks ahead one hour** or you'll be very late for Mass Sunday morning! This is a good time to check all your smoke and carbon dioxide alarms to be sure they are working properly.

SEEKING NEW NIÑO JESÚS SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

The children in our sister parish Niño Jesús in Manta, Ecuador, start their new school year in a few months. SJN parishioners and friends currently provide scholarships for 193 children in Niño Jesús. In anticipation of the need to replace sponsors who leave the area or the program, we are seeking other parishioners, family, or friends who could support a child's education. Sponsors provide an annual contribution of \$190 that helps cover the cost of a needy student's supplies, uniform, and shoes as well as a Christmas gift and family party. If you would like to become a sponsor or have any questions about the program, please email ninojesus@saintjn.org. The scholarship children and their families deeply appreciate the support they receive from us.

YOU COULD WIN A NEW CAR! That's right! Car raffle tickets continue to be available and you could be a lucky winner. We'll be available after most weekend Masses until Easter weekend so don't forget to come by and pick up some more tickets!



Prizes include five 2017 vehicles (Honda Civic, Buick Verano, GMC Sierra Truck, Honda CRV Sport Utility, and Honda Odyssey Van) and \$20,000 in cash prizes. This year the funds received for our participation in the 5-Car Raffle will be put towards three worthy groups: our sister parish - Nino Jesus in Manta, Ecuador; the Kairos, Guest House, and the St. Luke Foundation. Keep bringing in your sold raffle tickets and don't hesitate to replenish your supply and sell some more - they truly sell themselves!

WALK TO JERUSALEM 2017 sign-up continues. You can form a team with family or friends, or register by yourself at jinwalktojerusalem@gmail.com! Many signed up last weekend and are excited to begin this effort. WTJ is a walk/prayer journey that began Ash Wednesday and ends Palm Sunday. During this time we "earn miles" to join and accompany our patron St. John Neumann from Reston to Jerusalem. In 2017, we will take a circuitous route, travelling 10,869 miles! We need everyone's participation, no matter your physical abilities. Prayer and good works earn mileage! Don't miss this great opportunity for group bonding with family, Faith Formation Class, Bible study, K of C, various ministries, etc.! Join the entire SJN family with Lenten purpose that encourages health in body, mind and spirit. This Lenten season, stretch out of your routine; **you can do this!** For more information email jinwalktojerusalem@gmail.com.



KNIGHTS' KOVAR WEEKEND The Knights of Columbus will be outside church after all Masses next weekend, March 11 - 12 offering Tootsie rolls. Your free-will donations will help to support KOVAR, a Virginia Knights of Columbus charity. KOVAR was established in 1971 to provide financial assistance through grants and home loans to tax-exempt organizations providing training and assistance to citizens with intellectual disabilities. Visit <http://www.kovarva.org> for more information about their work.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

LIVE JESUS! Have you thought of things you might do as part of your Lenten preparation? Many have already registered to attend *Live Jesus!*, a morning of spiritual reflection, prayer and fellowship on Saturday, March 18 here at our parish. This year's theme is "Salesian GPS: Gentleness, Patience and Simplicity". It's hard to imagine a better time for a spiritual GPS to guide us through the distractions of daily living with gentleness, patience, and a calm and peaceful heart! Why not add *Live Jesus!* to whatever other ways you've decided to observe this solemn season?



Our presenters will be Rev. Francis Danella, OSFS and Rev. Matthew Hillyard, OSFS. Their presentations, "Heart Centered in a World of Sensory Overload" and "A Salesian GPS: Thank God for Recalculating" offer to help us direct our footsteps on a steady and sure course as we navigate our spiritual journeys. The day will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:00am and the program will open in the church at 9:00am with the first of our two presenters, after which there will be a short break. A brief period of prayerful silence will follow the second presentation, followed by Mass. The program will be complete by approximately 12:45pm. Registration is online—go to www.oblates.org and click on the registration link.

THE PAPACY—FROM ITALIAN PRINCE TO UNIVERSAL

PASTOR, presented by Father Bob Mancini, OSFS begins this Wednesday, March 8. There will be approximately 9 sessions, with two options, 10:00am and 7:00pm. Please call the Faith Formation Office at 703-860-2815 for more information.

KAIROS COOKIES *"For I was hungry and you gave me food . . . in prison and you visited me"* (Mt. 25:35-36)

Some men from our parish will take part in the first of the two Kairos retreats for VA State Prison inmates this Spring. The retreat for men at the Sussex 1 maximum security prison, east of Richmond begins Thursday, March 16. Though not everyone can visit prisoners in person as the Gospel suggests, there are other concrete ways to live this Gospel message.

To help them bring God's love to these men and women in a real and visible way, we can **bake cookies (we need a total of 350+ dozen to help attain the total 3,000 needed to cover both retreats) make posters, and/or pray during this retreat on March 16-19 and the women's retreat May 4-7.**

Families, individuals, RE classes or other groups can help these imprisoned men and women know they are not forgotten through these small but powerful good deeds.

For more information and **specific directions for baking (they have to be done a certain way!)**, please email or call Pat Schambach at patschambach@gmail.com (571-218-9787), or Bob Trainor at btrainor71@cox.net (703-476-2891) for the men's retreat. For the women's retreat in May, please contact Barbara Emery at memery1@gmail.com (703-855-3060), Joanna Fiedler at (571-213-7167) or joanna.fiedler@gmail.com, or Jasmine Antony at (301-910-2332) or isleparadise@yahoo.com. Or give a call if you'd like to learn more about getting involved in Kairos!

We are beginning to find your donations in the cookie bin in the main hallway; **all cookies need to be collected for the men's retreat no later than next Sunday, March 12.** All cookies for the women's retreat are needed no later than Sunday, April 30.

All help will be gratefully accepted. Please don't underestimate how powerful a prayer or poster or a dozen cookies are in the life of an inmate. What you do may just be the first sign of God's love that an inmate has ever experienced. Everything matters!

Fellowship

ONGOING FELLOWSHIP AT SJN:

- **Sunday Coffee** Join us for coffee, juice, muffins, and fellowship each Sunday from 8:30—11:30am. All are welcome!
- **9:00am Daily Mass and Fellowship:** Following Mass in the Chapel, join us in the Bridal Room for coffee and cookies.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Are you a male, age 18 years or older and a practicing Catholic, and wish to embark on a journey that emphasizes faith, fraternity, and fellowship with a real commitment to service in our community? If so, please consider becoming a member of the K of C Family of Man Council #7566. Take that first step and contact us at info@kofc7566.us.
- **Legion of Mary** Would you like to have the Pilgrim Virgin Statue visit your home for two weeks? If interested, the Legion of Mary will deliver and retrieve the Holy Virgin at your convenience. Email pilgrimvirginmarystatue@gmail.com or call 703-968-3337 for more information.
- **Life+Savers:** 7th and 8th grade teens gather on the 1st Saturday of each month, (except December) for fun activities, guest speakers and refreshments from 3:00 - 4:00pm. Drop into the Youth Room to relax or play after Sunday Faith Formation class while waiting for parent pickup or siblings attending Agape. Contact Kevin McManus at lifesavers@saintjn.org.
- **Mothers' Group:** Join us for weekday, evening and weekend playgroups, nights out, special events and more. Membership is open to all new, veteran and expectant caregivers of small children. Membership is free and participation is voluntary in all group activities. For more information please send email to momsgroup@saintjn.org.
- **Praying College Moms:** Join us on the 1st Friday morning or the 2nd Monday evening for shared prayer, support and fellowship. For evening sessions email ksmonroe58@gmail.com, and for evening sessions email gallo.kellymarie@gmail.com.
- **Shawl Ministry:** On the afternoon of the third Sunday of every month we gather to pray, talk, and create beautiful handmade shawls for those who are ill or grieving. Contact Teresa Westhues at 703-969-8430 to join or request a shawl.
- **Women's Newcomers Group:** Have you just moved to the area? Consider joining our new support group, meeting weekly during the day. For information, email Megan Murphy at megan.murphy218@gmail.com.
- **Young Adults:** If you are in your twenties or thirties and are looking for a community to socialize, do service and pray with, then come join us! For more information, email Thomas Patchan at youngadults@saintjn.org.

50+ CLUB ACTIVITIES: For more information on any 50+ Club event, please email Pat Bossie at grankidsx9@aol.com or call 703-620-3747. Remember to call Pat to make reservations.

- **Thursday, March 16: St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at P. J. Mulligan's, Herndon.** If you want to attend, we now have 60 seats available, so we have room for more to join in the fun. Let Pat know you will attend. Once we receive 40 reservations, we will establish a wait list. To check out the menu, the web site is <http://www.pjmulligans.com/>.

YOUNG ADULTS: Watch here for upcoming activities for singles and couples in their 20s and 30s. Unless otherwise noted, for more information on any event, or to be added to the YA email distribution list, email Thomas Patchan at saintjnya@gmail.com.

- **Lenten Men's and Women's Lenten Small Groups:** This Lent, we'll be forming separate men's and women's groups to meet weekly and grow closer to God together through faith, fellowship, and accountability. Please contact Zach at zanderson916@gmail.com for the men's group (Thursdays at 6:30pm) and Cara at caraferraro703@gmail.com for the women's group (Wednesdays at 7:15) if you are interested in joining.
- **Saturday, March 11, 9:00pm, Indoor Trampoline Arena, Rebounderz in Sterling:** Join us as we get active and participate in an adults trampoline dodgeball event at Rebounderz gym! If you're ready to take a leap of faith, please e-mail Thomas at saintjnya@gmail.com to RSVP.
- **Friday, March 17, 6:30 pm, Stations of the Cross:** Our group has been asked to lead the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 17. Volunteers are needed to read the text for each station and potentially lead music during the service. There will be no soup supper. Please email Thomas at saintjnya@gmail.com if you're able to help.

Faith Formation

Mickie Abatemarco, Director
703-390-2340 mabatemarco@saintjn.org

ONGOING ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES:

Unless otherwise noted, for more information on any program, contact Mickie Abatemarco.

- **Becoming A Catholic** Are you or someone you know interested in joining the Catholic Church? Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) meets year-round on Tuesday evenings. Email rcia@saintjn.org for information.
- **Contemplative Prayer** There is quiet prayer together every Thursday evening at 7:00pm. We also meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 10:00am with Lectio Divina.
- **Road to Emmaus** This Scripture Study group meets Mondays at 10:00am in the Conference Room.
- **Mothers' Group Bible Study** This group meets from 10 to 11:30am most Fridays from September through May, and covers the upcoming Sunday scripture. Childcare is available. RSVP is required to attend. Email Christy Cottrell for more information at christylc23@gmail.com.
- **Independent Online Bible Study** This 8-session course, "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible" will help uncover the story woven throughout Scripture, to get the "big picture" of the Bible. Details and registration link are available on our website under Faith Formation/Adults.
- **Power of Story** This program, presented by William R. Stott, Jr. meets Monday evenings at 7:00pm in the de Sales Chapel. Class schedule and registration forms are in brochures available at the Welcome Desk.

EXPLORING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH Has it been awhile since you have explored some of the basic aspects of the Catholic faith? Take this time to renew and refresh your understanding of our Church teachings. Meeting dates are Thursdays during Lent beginning on March 9 at 7:00pm in rooms B9/10.

SAVE THE DATE As noted on the Schedule of Lenten Liturgies and Services, our parish Lenten Mission will take place Sunday, April 2 through Tuesday, April 4. Stay tuned for more details.

CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS

Angela Davis
703-390-2345 adavis@saintjn.org

DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILDREN'S FAITH

FORMATION MINISTRY We are making some improvements to the Children's (PK-8th grade) Faith Formation program at SJN and we are excited to share these changes with you. Please join us for an informative Town Hall meeting where we will discuss the future of our Faith Formation ministry! We will hold two information sessions, one on March 8 and one on March 29. Both will be held in the Brown-McCarthy Auditorium at 7:00pm. We hope to see you there!

CONFIRMATION 2017 Information for Confirmation for Faith Formation students should be received in your homes by the week of March 6. If you do not receive this information and believe you are eligible for Confirmation please contact Angela Davis at adavis@saintjn.org.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY (AGAPE)

Doug Johnson
703-860-6141 djohnson@saintjn.org

UPCOMING AGAPE EVENTS:

Mark your calendars for the following exciting, fun-filled upcoming Agape or Agape related events and make plans to attend:

- **Sunday, March 5** - High School Night: 6:15 – 8:30pm; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium
- **Saturday, March 11** - Mini Work Camp: 9:00am - 3:00pm— Parking Lot
- **Sunday, March 12** - High School Night: 6:15 – 8:30pm; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium
- **Saturday and Sunday, March 18-19** - Cross Pin Distribution After All Masses

HIGH SCHOOL TEEN NIGHT (AGAPE)

Calling all teens! Join us tonight Sunday, March 5, for food, fellowship, faith sharing, meeting new friends and having lots of fun. Come and learn more about our Catholic faith and traditions and how we can apply our Christian values to our daily lives and in our relationships with others. This will also be a great opportunity to share snacks, enjoy fellowship and make new friends! All high school teens are invited and welcome, so bring a friend.

WEAR A CROSS PIN AND SHARE YOUR LENTEN

SPIRIT! Teens participating in the Diocesan Work Camp this summer will be distributing cross pins **made by them** after all Masses the weekend of March 18-19, and again the weekend of April 1-2. These crosses not only symbolize the support of the Saint John Neumann community for this important ministry, but more importantly symbolize the greatest sacrifice ever made in the history of the world – Our Savior, Jesus Christ, dying on the cross for the sins of all humanity. Your contributions will help defray lodging and meal expenses for the teen and adult volunteers from our parish when they travel to Fredericksburg, Virginia to spend a week helping our poor, disabled, elderly and underprivileged brothers and sisters in our Diocese. Thank you in advance for your generous support of these teens and adults who will be eyes and feet and hands of Christ making a difference in the lives of others!

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MINI WORK CAMP DATE CHANGE Calling all teens and adults! Make a difference in someone's life. Would you like to help those in need, learn some new skills, do hands-on basic home repairs and have fun? Sign up and join us for the next Mini Work Camp on **Saturday, March 11** from 9:00am - 3:00pm! No experience is necessary; help bring hope by sharing your Christian love with those in need in our community. Permission Slips are required! Contact Phyllis Rienzo by phone at 703-795-0339 or e-mail at prienzo@verizon.net for a permission slip and to let her know you will be participating.

HIGH SCHOOL TEEN MINISTRY E-MAIL LIST: Contact Doug Johnson at djohnson@saintjn.org if you wish to be placed on the SJN High School Teen Ministry email list. This is a great way to learn the latest information on events, programs and opportunities to serve in our high school teen program.

Special Collection Stewardship

THIS WEEKEND-BLACK AND INDIAN MISSIONS

Established in 1884, the National Collection for Black and Indian Missions supports and strengthens diocesan evangelization programs among the African American, American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut communities of the United States. The generosity of the good People of God allows the Commission to give helpful grants to dioceses across the country to operate schools, parishes, and other missionary services that build the Body of Christ For more information, visit <http://blackandindianmission.org>

BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL - DONATING IS ONLY

A CLICK AWAY! The Bishop's Lenten Appeal is in full swing and we are asking every household in our parish to support this appeal to the extent that they are able. The BLA funds many programs, services and ministries that serve people in need and further Jesus' Mission in our diocese. Let us join together to do the Lord's work – works that touch the lives and souls of thousands of people in our diocese. Thank you! **Make donating easy for yourself** - go to our website (saintjn.org), click anywhere on the picture of the bishops, and you will be taken to the Arlington Diocese BLA donation site! What could be easier? Need your BLA ID Number and can't find your letter? Call the office at 703-860-6147 for help.

OUR THANKS TO
STANG FAMILY ORTHODONTICS
WWW.STANGFAMILYORTHO.COM
FOR SPONSORING AN AD
IN OUR WEEKLY BULLETIN

Around the Diocese

POST ABORTION HEALING RETREAT FOR WOMEN:

An Entering Canaan Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on Saturday, March 25. Come begin your healing journey and experience God's hope and mercy. You are not alone. There is hope. There is healing. For further information and confidential registration, please contact Project Rachel at 888-456-HOPE (4673) or info@helpafterabortion.org.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

"Then the eyes of both of them were opened..." Let us appreciate the totality of our spouses by taking part in a WorldWide Marriage Encounter weekend. The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** weekend is March 31-April 2 in Herndon. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: RenewMarriage-VANorth.org or contact us at applications@renewmarriage-vanorth.org or 703-646-1521.

SUNDAY TV MASS FOR THE HOMEBOUND

The Diocese of Arlington, in partnership with the Archdiocese of Washington, produces a weekly Sunday TV Mass filmed in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Viewers can watch the TV Mass every Sunday from 10:30 –11:00am on the DCW50 network. It is a wonderful ministry for those members of our Catholic family who are unable to be physically present with a local worshipping community for the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy. For more information, visit www.arlingtondiocese.org/tv-mass.

SJN Weekly Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."

MATTHEW 4:10

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. How is God calling you to serve?

FINANCIAL INFORMATION for the weekends of February 26 and March 5 will appear in the March 12 bulletin.