

PARISH STAFF

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

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Rev. Robert A. Mancini, OSFS 860-8510 x145

In Residence:

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860-8510

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Finance Council Patricia Maloney 860-8510 x310

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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 26

Faith Formation Classes

Brown Bag Weekend

Car Raffle Ticket Sales

Sunday Coffee: 8:30am; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

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

MONDAY, MARCH 27

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 28

Faith Formation Classes

French Conversation: 9:30am; A1

RCIA Catechumenate: 7:30pm; A1/A2

RCIA Inquiry: 7:30pm; Conference Room

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

Faith Formation Classes

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

Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

Angel Choir: 5:00pm; Music Room

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

The Light Is On For You: 6:30pm; Church

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

Catholic Social Teaching: 7:30pm; B1

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

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

Newcomers' Book Club: 10:00am; A1

Contemplative Prayer: 7:00pm; Bridal Room

Legion of Mary: 7:00pm; B4

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

Mothers' Group Bible Study

Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper: 6:30pm; Church

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

Car Raffle Ticket Sales

Lenten Cross Pin Distribution

Pictorial Directory Sign-Up

Life+Savers 3:00pm; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Faith Formation Classes

Car Raffle Ticket Sales

Lenten Cross Pin Distribution

Pictorial Directory Sign-Up

Knights of Columbus Charity Fundraising Breakfast: 8:30am;

Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

Youth Pastoral Council: 3:30pm; Youth Room

RCIA Dismissal: 5:30pm; Conference Room

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

Lenten Parish Mission: 7:00pm; Church

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Offering hands to
Serve
and hearts
to Love



THE BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL IS OFF TO A GOOD START AT ST.

JOHN NEUMANN Thank you for providing your responses to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal. The Diocese has received \$239,000 to date from St. John Neumann parishioners, which is 79% of our goal of \$305,000! If you have not responded yet, please consider making a donation of any size to help the various charities and programs supported by the Bishop's Lenten Appeal. You can donate online from our website, www.saintjn.org, mail in the commitment form sent by the Diocese, or complete an envelope that can be found in the narthex.

Prayer and Liturgy

WE WELCOME those who have recently entered into our faith through the waters of Baptism: **Hunter Ray Devries**, son of Steve and Cherile; **Nicholas Lima Kodnovich**, son of Joseph and Beatriz; and **Pax Lennon Spaulding**, son of Kevin and Natalie.



WE PRAY for those who have died, especially **Ray Burns**, husband of Mary; and **Mario Canizares**, father of Annette.

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

PLEASE PRAY for those who have asked for our prayers, Suzanne Brown, Tim Lisko, Sandi McLean, 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.***

HEARING IMPAIRED? Amplification devices are available for anyone having difficulty hearing the Mass. If you would like to use one, just ask an usher before Mass. Also, the parish has purchased large-print Sunday Missals to help you worship. If you would like one for your personal use contact Jo-Ann Duggan at jduggan@saintjn.org or 703-860-6149.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS:

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a;
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Ephesians 5:8-14;
John 9:1-41



Today, Jesus reminds us that He is the world's Light that produces goodness, justice and truth. We are urged to live in His Light. St. Francis de Sales notes:

The human mind finds its entire satisfaction in discovering and knowing the truth of things. The greater the truth, the greater the delight. Yet, our human condition makes us skillful in the pursuit of honors, riches and power. Experience teaches us daily that these useless loves make us prone to turn from the truth, rather than consider the truth of God's love. God's love has us think of the truth of a paradise filled with eternal happiness.

Our hearts are refreshed and energized with holy love as we accept in faith the truth of the teachings of Jesus. It is a sign of interior conversion when God's goodness gives us light to see our blindness. We come to know ourselves as children of the Light. When we remove the obstacles that stop us from loving God, we become capable of loving one another, as God desires us to love each other. A human flaw discovered is half healed, for we have received an insight that frees us of our blindness. Nonetheless, we must be patient at the sight of our faults. We must learn to acknowledge them calmly and without fuss. Nothing is more favorable to the growth of those "weeds" than our anxiety to get rid of them. Stay always on the road to holiness and these imperfections will grow weak.

Our Savior held us in his hand and guided our life when we did not want to be completely His. Since we now desire ardently only to do God's will, don't you think He desires to protect His little lambs that strayed from the gentle Shepherd? Faithfully focus, then, on nourishing God's gift of conversion with awe and confidence. Let us make God's grace effective in our lives by persevering in our holy resolutions and good desires. We then will live in the Light of Christ, producing truth, justice and goodness.

(Adapted from the writings of Saint Francis de Sales)

THERE IS STILL TIME TO RECONCILE TO GOD BEFORE EASTER

Have you considered seeking God's healing? 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.





SATURDAY	MARCH 25
5:00pm	People of the Parish
SUNDAY	MARCH 26
7:30am	Patrick Delaney †
9:30am	Mary Broderick Burgess †
11:30am	Richard Hodes †
1:30pm	Raymond Hummel †
5:00pm	James Cook †
MONDAY	MARCH 27
9:00am	John DiNoto †
12:10pm	Evelyn Zacco †
TUESDAY	MARCH 28
6:30am	Bernice Mushlit †
9:00am	Rosemary Burns †
WEDNESDAY	MARCH 29
9:00am	Willie Walsh †
12:10pm	Anne Marie Dunn †
THURSDAY	MARCH 30
6:30am	Marguerite Coffey †
9:00am	John Phillips †
FRIDAY	MARCH 31
9:00am	Meg Friel †
12:10pm	Michael McCollum †
SATURDAY	APRIL 1
5:00pm (Chapel)	Michael J. Blanzly †
5:00pm (Church)	Chip Whalen †
SUNDAY	APRIL 2
7:30am	People of the Parish
9:30am	Janet Lessard †
11:30am	Anthony Ferlaino †
1:30pm	Yensy Menjivar †
5:00pm	Barbara Kurtz †

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING Have you ever thought of becoming a Eucharistic Minister? Ever considered serving your parish in this rewarding ministry bringing our Lord to others? If you are interested please contact the Liturgy Office at 703-860-6151.

You will need to attend *one* of four diocesan workshops:

- Saturday, April 22 at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington;
- Saturday, April 29 at Our Lady of Hope in Potomac Falls;
- Saturday, May 13 at Holy Trinity in Gainesville, or
- Saturday, May 20 at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Fredericksburg.

Each workshop will take place from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

We will have a follow-up meeting at our parish near the end of May to orient you on how to participate in this ministry here. If you discover you are called to serve our community in this capacity either at Mass or bringing communion to the sick, please let us know!

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

Ezekiel 37:12-14 The fifth significant step of salvation is the announcement of the return from exile. To the people of Israel destroyed by despair, the prophet predicts a rebirth.

Psalms 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Romans 8:8-11 For Paul the flesh is the human person, body and soul, which closes in upon itself and its sin. The Spirit is the force of new life given to the believer in the risen Christ. The same divine power which raised Jesus from the dead already works within the baptized and will raise the believer up on the last day.

John 11:1-45 "I am the Resurrection and the Life." This affirmation of Jesus is at the center of the gospel story of the raising of Lazarus. To believe in Jesus, the Messiah and Son of God is to have already within oneself eternal life, a life which death can never take away.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION "With Burning Hearts: Discipleship and the Joy of The Eucharist in Lent and Always" Join us for three evenings of shared faith experience suitable for all ages. Let your hearts be nourished in rediscovering the joy of the Eucharist, Sunday April 2 through Tuesday, April 4, at 7:00pm. Through Scripture, ritual, dramatic storytelling and music, we learn to embrace our baptismal promise of discipleship.

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

Wednesday, April 12, 7:00pm

Confessions

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

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.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Parish Information

RCIA: THE SECOND SCRUTINY This weekend at the Saturday, 5:00pm Vigil Mass we celebrate the Second Scrutiny with our Elect. As they prepare for baptism at the Easter Vigil, we pray that Christ, the light of the world, will free them (and us) from the blindness that allows us to be indifferent to the suffering of the world. We ask for deliverance from the social sins of failing to seek justice, peace and reconciliation; the sins that allow us to close our eyes to those who suffer from poverty, homelessness, misogyny and racism.

HELP NEEDED SATURDAY, APRIL 15 FOR EASTER VIGIL RECEPTION

Each year at the conclusion of the Easter Vigil service we gather to celebrate this great feast and to welcome those who have been baptized into the Catholic Church at the Vigil. We need many helping hands to make this a truly gala celebration. Consider donating your talents in decorating, baking, setting-up or cleaning up. Please stop by the shelf in the hallway between the narthex and Brown-McCarthy Auditorium to sign up to help.

PRAY FOR A PRIEST DAILY We continue our daily prayers for the priests in the Arlington Diocese by praying this week for:



- March 27 Reverend Milton R. Acevedo
- March 28 Reverend William M. Aitcheson
- March 29 CH (COL) Eric J. Albertson
- March 30 Reverend Anthony Appiah
- March 31 Reverend Devaraju Arockiasamy
- April 1 Reverend Robert E. Avella
- April 2 Reverend Ramon A Baez

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 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

LITURGY PRESIDERS NEXT WEEKEND

Assuming there are no changes, the presiders for the weekend of April 1 - April 2 are:

Saturday	5:00pm Chapel	Father Joe
Saturday	5:00pm	Father Bob
Sunday	7:30am	Father Don
Sunday	9:30am	Father Bill
Sunday	11:30am	Father Don
Sunday	1:30pm	Father Charles Phukuta, CICM with Deacon Atanacio
Sunday	5:00pm	Father Joe

WALK TO JERUSALEM: Today after the 9:30am Mass (weather permitting) our Pastor Father Joe will lead parishioners on a 30-45 minute walk in solidarity with St. John Neumann's virtual "Walk To Jerusalem"! We will gather in front of the rectory. Join Father Joe and the SJN Health Ministry for this fun event as we encourage one another's spiritual and physical Lenten journey. All are welcome. In fellowship with our Care for The Common Home ministry we will not provide bottled water but encourage you to bring your reusable container from home. As of March 12, St. John Neumann had made it to Brazil but only 1/3 of parishioners had turned in their miles. Don't forget to submit your mileage earned to sinwalktojerusalem@gmail.com on Saturdays, or drop them in the basket on the WTJ table by the Health Ministry bulletin board.



LIFE+SAVERS (AND FRIENDS!) 7th and 8th graders, prepare for a special "Out of This World" treat at our next Saturday Social taking place on April 1.

Joining us as our guest speaker will be fellow parishioner, catechist, pilot, author, and veteran NASA astronaut, Tom Jones, PhD. In more than eleven years with NASA he flew on four space shuttle missions and led three spacewalks. Make room in your schedule to hear his adventures in flight and space.

Because we know you would want to share this experience, we're inviting your parents and our High School teens to join us. Tom will bring copies of his books, "Sky Walking: An Astronaut's Memoir," and "Ask the Astronaut: A Galaxy of Astonishing Answers to Your Questions on Spaceflight" for sale and signing.

Remember, we meet on the first Saturday of each month in the Brown-McCarthy Auditorium from 3:00 - 4:30pm.



DID YOU SEE THE NEW HONDA CIVIC PARKED OUTSIDE?

It could be yours if you buy the winning ticket as we continue our After Mass ticket sales for the All Saints Church 5 -Car Raffle! Prizes include five 2017 vehicles and \$20,000 in cash prizes. Tickets remain \$5 each and will be on sale after weekend Masses until Easter weekend. As in past years, all the earnings go directly to worthy causes. A portion of the money will again be used to help the parishioners of Niño Jesús (our sister parish). This year we also will contribute to three additional worthy organizations: Guest House, Kairos and the St Luke Foundation.

PARISH REMINDERS

- The Runner's Marathon of Reston takes place on Lawyers Road in front of church on Sunday, April 9 at 7:30am. The water stop located by the church closes at 11:45am, when the race is expected to be finished. Use caution entering and exiting the parking lot.
- The 2018 Mass Intentions Book will open on Monday, April 24 for intentions from January 1 through June 30.
- The Cornerstones van will be here all weekend. Please be sure to bring your food donations.



COOKIES FOR KAIROS Thank you to all who baked cookies for the Kairos Men and Women retreats for the prison residents. Due to the wonderful spirit of our parish, at this time we have filled our quota. God Bless all our Bakers! We hope to connect with you again in the fall.

LOOKING FOR AN EASY WAY TO RACK UP REWARDS POINTS ON YOUR CREDIT CARD? Why not avail yourself to our easy-to-use electronic donations or e-giving option, allowing you to schedule recurring donations or special collection contributions, and avoid having to write checks every week? Visit the Stewardship page on our web site at <http://www.saintjn.org/stewardship/> for detailed information on how to set up electronic donations.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE: April is "Child Abuse Prevention" month, and we have organized several activities to draw attention to this important topic. The blue pinwheel is the national symbol for Child Abuse Prevention. The Health Ministry is planting a "Pinwheel Garden" as a reminder of the innocence of childhood and our commitment to the physical, psychological and emotional safety of all children. There are 36 pinwheels in our garden, drawing on the number 18 as the Hebrew sign "Chai" which means "Life". Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia has donated multiple pamphlet and counseling resources in both English and Spanish. These are placed next to the Health Ministry Bulletin Board. On Monday May 1, at 7:30pm, we will host a 60 to 90-minute "Positive Discipline Workshop" offered by Fairfax County Department of Family Services for parents, grandparents, teen and adult child care providers. We will also update the Health Ministry Bulletin board after Easter for the remainder of April to focus on Child Abuse Prevention. Please make time during this month devoted to Child Protection to learn more about how you and we all can make a positive difference in the life of a child.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR ANOTHER HEARTY**



BREAKFAST! The Knights of Columbus will host their monthly Charity Fundraising Breakfast next Sunday, April 2, from 8:30 to 11:00am. The beneficiary is Nazareth Farm, a Catholic community in rural West Virginia that transforms lives through a service-retreat experience. The group is devoted to living out the Gospel message through the cornerstones of community, simplicity, prayer, and service. We serve alongside our neighbors to address substandard housing by providing home repair. We celebrate the richness of Appalachia and experience God by building relationships between our volunteers and the local community. Join us for breakfast, and take some time to chat with a representative from Nazareth Farm about their work and ways in which you can help their efforts.

DIVORCED AND SEPARATED GROUP Are you divorced or separated? Please consider joining our ministry here at our parish. Would you like to talk with someone else who is traveling the same journey? Would you like to find out more about what our Catholic faith has to say regarding divorce? Could you use some positive thoughts regarding your future?

Join us at our first get-together. We will be meeting on eight consecutive Tuesday evenings, starting on April 18, in the Youth Room on the Lower Level at 7:00pm. Registration is required. Please contact Jo-Ann Duggan at jduggan@saintjn.org or 703-860-6149.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY Time slots are still available for your family photo to be taken on select days and times from May 11 through June 17. Volunteers will be available after all Masses next weekend, to provide information and help you sign up in person to have your family photographed in May and June. Look for the "Sign-up now for your Family Photo" event on our website, www.saintjn.org. Don't miss out on a free 8"x10" photo and a copy of the Parish's Pictorial Directory.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FAMILY OF THE MONTH Congratulations to the Skowronski Family for being selected as the Family of Man Council's Family of the Month for March. They joined the

parish in 1994 and Joe became a Knight in 1995. Joe is now a 3rd Degree Knight and works as a Financial Analyst for Boeing. Joe and Barbara have been married for 27 years and have three children. Kristen, 23, is pursuing a Master of Social Work at VCU; her twin sister, Allison, works for the Naval Sea Systems Command. Their son, Matt, 21, is a junior at the U. S. Naval Academy.

Besides the Knights of Columbus, Joe is an officer in the Men's Critic Club of Herndon. Barbara is a board member of Praying College Moms and volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Fairfax County. Both Joe and Barbara volunteer with Fairfax County Pets on Wheels at the Sunrise Assisted Living facility in Reston. Joe and Barbara can often be found cheering at USNA water polo games, volunteering with the Boston Marathon, and training for the occasional 10K race. Thank you for your community involvement!

MARCH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BLOOD DRIVE WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL! Every three months,

the Knights of Columbus Family of Man Council teams up with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive here at the parish. Why? The Knights do this because they want to provide an opportunity for fellow parishioners to save lives, of course! So little is known by the average individual about the life-saving value in just one small donation. Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. Approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U.S, with nearly 7,000 units of platelets and 10,000 units of plasma also needed daily. Are you aware that a single car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood? And every little bit helps.



For the March drive, the Red Cross allocation of appointments was 33, given the time allowed. All were scheduled in advance, and while there were a few "no shows", there were nine walk-ins. With 29 whole blood donors wanting to participate, a few were deferred but there were 24 productive donations. There were also two double red donors, with productive donations. A total of 28 units were collected, several units above the average collected the past three years.

If you have not donated blood before, please consider going to <http://www.redcross.org/local/washington> to find out how easy it is to donate and save lives of others. You never know when you, a family member or friend may need blood donations for some reason, and you certainly would want there to be blood available for them. For more information before our next drive, contact John Moran of the Knights at 202-586-8803.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

HOP ON OVER! Join us for an “egg-celent” way to kick off your celebration of Easter at our annual Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by the Mothers’ Group and Hispanic Ministries. The party will begin at 10:00am in the Brown-McCarthy Auditorium on Saturday, April 8 and includes food, musical entertainment by Peter McCory, “The One Man Band,” with the egg hunt beginning at about 11:15am. Registration is **required**, so please sign up each child on our online sign-up sheet: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080D4FA8AC28A0FB6-easter. (This link is also posted on www.saintjn.org.) Children must be accompanied by an adult and must be age ten or under to participate in the egg hunt. Older siblings are welcome to enjoy the rest of the party. The event will be limited to 200 children. If you have questions or want to volunteer to help out, please email Sarah Norman at sarahcnorman@gmail.com.



CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME Many hands make light the work...calling all Weeders! We need volunteers to help weed the many beautiful planting areas we have on the parish grounds. By forming a landscaping group, we hope to gather enough volunteers to spread the work out to two hours a month. Weeders will come at their convenience and consult a master plan to ensure that attention is provided to all areas. If you would like to add your name to the list or would like more information, email Bob Hutnick at BobHutnick@gmail.com or call 703-860-1929.

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. For information email pilgrimvirginmarystatue@gmail.com or call 703-968-3337.
- **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 kmonroe58@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.

YOUNG ADULTS: 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.

- **Sunday, April 2, 3:00pm, Easter Egg Dying; Katie's House in Sterling:** We'll ring in the Easter season early by dying Easter eggs and participate in an egg pocking competition — tapping eggs until one breaks. We'll provide the eggs and dye, you provide a snack and some fun! RSVP to Katie at kathryn.c.harris@saic.com
- **Friday, April 7, 7:00pm, Fireside Prayer Service and S'mores; Thomas' House in Herndon:** Center yourself for the final stretch of Lent with an evening of reflection and fellowship. We'll pray, sing, and discuss our Lenten progress together by the fire pit, and will enjoy s'mores together afterwards. Please invite friends and let Thomas know if you can come at saintjnya@gmail.com.

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.

- **Wednesday, April 5: 11:30am** We will enjoy lunch at Chadwick's, 203 Strand Street in Old Town, Alexandria. We have visited Chadwick's several times in the past and it has always been a lovely time. See their website: <http://www.chadwicksrestaurants.com/>. Chadwick's has given us 35 reservations, so if you want to attend, please call Pat Bossie at 703-620-3747 or email me. Once we reach 35 reservations, we will start a waiting list.
- **Tuesday, May 23 - Thursday, May 25: Virginia Beach** We will stay at Comfort Inn and Suites Oceanfront on the boardwalk. Our rate is \$138.66/night, including taxes and fees. Call Pat Bossie with questions, and stay tuned for more information.

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 Divinia.
- **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.

*"Pray as though everything depended on God.
Work as though everything depended on you."
St. Augustine*

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 26** - High School Night: 6:15 – 8:30pm; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

HIGH SCHOOL TEEN NIGHT (AGAPE) Calling all teens! Join us tonight, March 26, 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. We will be assisting the Youth Pastoral Council with a presentation to 7th and 8th graders. 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.

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS We need you for our practice this Tuesday, March 28, at 6:00pm. "The Living Stations of the Cross" is a powerful prayer presentation in which teen participants portray Christ's Passion and Death. All 7th through 12th graders are invited and encouraged to participate in this dramatic presentation. Teen participants will portray Jesus, Mary, Pilate, crowd members and other individuals identified with the Stations of the Cross in a freeze frame tableau with narration of the Stations and contemplative music. Actors, readers, singers and musicians are all needed for this presentation. The Living Stations of the Cross will be prayerfully presented with the parish community on Good Friday, April 14, at 3:00 pm. Practices will take place on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00pm in the Church with a final practice on Good Friday. If you plan to participate as an actor, narrator, singer or musician, please email djohnson@saintjn.org and come to the Church this Tuesday night at 6:00pm (with your instrument, if you are a musician) for practice. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Doug Johnson on 703-860-6141 or by email.

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 next weekend, 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!

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.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Around the Diocese

PAUL VI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL would like to invite 7th graders with a deep interest in science to our **Middle School Science Day** on Wednesday, April 12. Please email ehanley@paulvi.net for more information. Space is extremely limited.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES LOVES VOLUNTEERS

Do you want to answer God's call to serve? Please visit www.ccca.net/volunteer.php to find more than 120 different volunteer opportunities available. Each year more than 1,700 people volunteer with Catholic Charities. There is something for everyone. Catholic Charities relies on its volunteers to reach those in need throughout the Diocese. We are also seeking corporations who want to come and volunteer as a group! Come and share your talents and skills with us. To learn more, please contact the Director of Volunteers, Sally O'Dwyer at sodwyer@ccca.net or 703-841-3838.

CATHOLIC ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVE

Do you have a Catholic Advance Medical Directive (AMD)? The Diocese of Arlington has a simple 2-part document which allows you legally to declare your medical healthcare advocate or agent and includes an optional organ donation authorization, which can be used by all adults. Avoid being caught unprepared for you and your loved ones to make those tough medical decisions. To obtain a copy of the Catholic Advance Medical Directive in English or Spanish, contact your parish office, or contact the Arlington Respect Life Office at respectlife@arlingtondiocese.org or 703-841-3817. You also may fill the forms out on-line and they can be downloaded at www.arlingtondiocese.org/Family-Life/End-of-Life-Medical-Directives/.

DISCOUNT COURSES AVAILABLE THROUGH CATHOLIC DISTANCE UNIVERSITY

Join the inspiring instructors at Catholic Distance University for a faith-filled journey of discovery. Enroll in an online independent study course of your choice and study anytime, anywhere! For a full list of courses, browse our catalog at www.cdu.catalog.instructure.com/. Use Promo Code CDU15ARLINGTON when registering to qualify for the \$30 rate.

OUR THANKS TO
CHESTNUT GROVE CEMETERY
FOR SPONSORING AN AD
IN OUR WEEKLY BULLETIN

Special Collection Stewardship

BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL - DONATING IS ONLY A CLICK AWAY!

After reflecting upon the many blessings that God has given you, please prayerfully consider making a pledge of support to this important appeal that funds many programs, offices and ministries that serve people in need and further Jesus' Mission in our diocese. 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.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES This week, we are taking up the Catholic Relief Services Collection to respond to "Jesus in disguise." This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support to struggling communities and to work toward peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

SJN Weekly Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION *"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart."*
1 Samuel 16:7

How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talents and treasure on earth.

Credit cards and checking?? Parishioners are encouraged to consider participating in our convenient e-giving program, where recurring Sunday donations and all Special collections can easily be made from your checking or credit card accounts. See the Stewardship section of our website, <http://www.saintjn.org/stewardship/> for more details regarding this option.