St. John Neumann Catholic Community

Spirituality in the Tradition of St. Francis de Sales

Parish Mission Statement
We, the faithful of St. John Neumann Catholic Community, commit ourselves to celebrating and giving witness to the presence of God in our midst by living the Gospel to its fullest. May we do all things in the spirit of St. Francis de Sales with compassion, humility and gentleness.

Declaración de la Misión
Nosotros, la Comunidad Católica en San Juan Neumann, nos comprometemos a celebrar y dar testimonio de la presencia de Dios entre nosotros viviendo el Evangelio en su plenitud. Que hagamos todas las cosas en el espíritu de San Francisco de Sales con compasión, humildad y mansedumbre.

Office Information
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Email: info@saintjn.org

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am – 7:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Website/Social Media Contacts
www.saintjn.org
Facebook: St. John Neumann, Reston
Instagram: sjnreston

Weekend Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 5:00 pm
Domingo Español: 1:30 pm

Weekday Mass Schedule
Monday-Friday: 9:00 am
Wednesday: 7:00 pm

Reconciliation
Saturday 10:00 – 10:30 am
Also by Appointment
Being Comfortable In Your Own Skin
Fr. Richard R. DeLillo, OSFS

"He is really comfortable in his own skin." I hear that statement said about certain people and often wonder if everyone who uses it has the same meaning. I understand it to say, "This person knows who he or she is, both the good and the bad sides, and then finds the courage to be the best version of him or herself that they can be."

Someone once said: “We are as healthy and whole as we are open and honest with ourselves and with others, and we are as sick as we are secretive about ourselves.” I think what they are pointing out is the fact that our persons are like a coin: heads on one side and tails on the other. Both sides complete the coin.

Admitting to both the shiny bright side and the stark dark side and becoming comfortable with both equally produces integrity, being who we say we are, and honesty, living who we say we are. With the added incentive of trying always to be the best version of who we are.

Integrity and honesty are strong foundational pillars for persons comfortable in their own skin. When folks say, “Steve is a good person,” perhaps, what they are really saying is: “Steve seems to be a good person who knows his demons and battles them.”

In truth, like all of us, Steve never really conquers these demons, as they arise from his weaknesses and failings. They are always working to destroy anything wholesome and sound, such as Steve’s admired, likeable images.

Over the years, Steve has learned to handle these vulnerable aspects of his person and not pretend them away. He shares them openly when the moments to do so are evident. Appropriately, sharing his weak and human side, his fears, and shortcomings, are usually such a relief to his acquaintances and friends, freeing them to share their true selves. It is as if the “edited and abridged” person becomes the “what you see is what you get” person.

Remember the young man who approached Jesus and asked: “Teacher what good must I do to gain eternal life?” Jesus answered: “If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” And when he asked which ones, Jesus simply answered, “All of them.” Then Jesus replied: “If you are serious about this, go and sell all you have and follow me.”

Maybe Jesus was hinting that anyone who builds a relationship on less than honesty and integrity is building a relationship on sand. Such a relationship will weaken and collapse because neither is getting any benefits. It lacks solid nourishment.

Like us, the young man has a choice, either go away sad, or follow Jesus and courageously wrestle with each of life’s steps with honesty, openness, and integrity. The Holy Spirit is there to help us. He has the gifts, the energy, and the desire to make us comfortable in our own skin, which means we never have to walk away sad.

Originally published at livetodaywell.org.
This Sunday’s Readings:
Ezekiel 33:7-9, Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9, Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:15-20

Today’s Gospel challenges us to love one another in light of “fraternal correction,” a concept lost in our culture. St. Francis de Sales speaks of it in light of true friendship:

It often happens that when we have high regard for friends, we can absorb their imperfections. Certainly we must love our friends in spite of their faults. Yet, true friendship requires us to share the true good, not evil. Thus, just as gold diggers leave the sand on the bank and take the gold they find, so also those who share in a true friendship ought to remove the sand of its imperfections, and not let this sand get into their souls.

True friendship can live only on true virtue. It comes from God, leads to God, and its bond endures eternally in God. It is a weak friendship that passively watches our friends take the wrong path: to let them perish rather than to courageously help them with the lance of correction. Genuine, living friendships cannot continue in the midst of vice. If it is only a passing vice, a true friendship will put it to flight by correction.

When correction is done with compassion rather than anger, repentance will sink far deeper and penetrate more effectively. Nothing so quickly calms down an angry elephant as the sight of a little lamb. When reason brings along rage, it is feared rather than loved. But reason without anger peaceably chastises, corrects, and warns, even though it might be severe and exact. A father’s gentle, loving rebuke has far greater power to correct a child than rage and passion.

Blessed are they who speak only to give “fraternal correction” in a spirit of sacred love and profound humility! More blessed are those who are ready to receive it with a gentle, peaceful, and tranquil heart! In being humble, faithful, and courageous, they have already made great progress, and will arrive at the highest degree of Christian holiness.

Adapted from the writings of St. Francis de Sales, especially, “Introduction to the Devout Life”

Next Sunday’s Readings

Next weekend we celebrate the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Please prepare for Mass and the Homily by reflecting on these texts from God’s Word:

Sirach 27:30-28:7 Judgment belongs to God. We cannot assume this right. The history of the covenant is one of patient forgiveness. This is the aspect of God, which we must imitate.

Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12: The Lord is kind and merciful. The forgiveness of enemies is a frequent melody in both the Old and New Testaments. The psalmist reminds us that it is the Lord who is “kind and merciful.”

Romans 14:7-9 Paul wrote: “For me, to live is Christ” (Phil 1:21), here reiterating his faith. Living in the risen Christ transforms life and death.

Matthew 18:21-35 Before God, each of us is an insolvent debtor. In God’s goodness, our accounts are reconciled. This royal pardon inspires our sincere and total forgiveness of one another.

Daily Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 5
People of the Parish (special intention)

Sunday, September 6
Florence Pritchard †
Kathy Bucco †
Feliciano Menendez †
Michelle Estrada Ortez (special intention)
Lenny Mathey †

Monday, September 7
Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8
Daniel Nugent †

Wednesday, September 9
Marie Therese Hon Pin †
Garnett Taylor †

Thursday, September 10
Salvatore “Buddy” Masanque (special intention)

Friday, September 11
Berta Volk †

Saturday, September 12
Buddy Sayles †

Sunday, September 13
People of the Parish (special intention)
Anthony Scaly †
Josefa Sasinowski †
Victor Manuel Perez (special intention)
John and Edna Pfeifer ††

Sacramental Celebrations

Baptisms: Clare Marie Brown, Francisco Javier Rosa Romero, Bryan Omar Umana, and Olivia Maria Cavalcanti Velti

Wedding: Kate Zimmerman and Brenden Cologna

Prayer Lists

Sick: Vrigit Guzmán, Joy Mulata

St. John Neumann Church • Reston, Virginia

September 5-6, 2020
Stewardship Reflection

“You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel…”
Ezekiel 33:7

Many of us are generous with our gifts. However, many of us are not generous in proportion to the gifts we have been given. How often do we give at the minimum level required? Remember, the Lord calls us to nurture and develop our gifts. He calls us to be generous with all the gifts He has given us, especially the one that means the most to us.

Second Collections

Next weekend, the parishes in the Arlington Diocese will have a second collection for Religious Education expenses. These funds will go toward young and adult religious education, including children’s liturgies and RCIA. Your contributions will remain here at St. John Neumann.

Diocesan Resource Page on Issues Affecting the Catholic Church Available

The Catholic Diocese of Arlington website includes a resource page where parishioners can access information regarding events affecting the Church. Read the policies on child protection and responses from Bishop Burbidge and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) at arlingtondiocese.org/childprotection.

Season of Creation—Hope in Action

Celebrate the Season of Creation by letting our prayer be inspired by a closeness to nature leading us to give thanks to God our Creator. We are called to reflect on our lifestyles and make an effort to adopt more simple and respectful ones. The Season of Creation reminds us that hope for tomorrow is not a noble sentiment but a task calling for concrete actions here and now.

Even if we don’t see an immediate impact from our stewardship efforts, we must continue them and keep in mind that they will ultimately benefit society “for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread. Furthermore, such actions restore our self-esteem and enable us to live more fully and to feel that life on earth is worthwhile” (Laudato Si’, 212).

Please explore the Season of Creation resources and links on the SJN website (saintjn.org) offered by the Care for our Common Home Ministry. May God, “the lover of life” (Wisdom 11:26), grant us the courage to do good without waiting for someone else to begin, or until it is too late.

Prayer Warriors Needed for Opioid Crisis Response

Catholic Charities needs Prayer Warriors to privately offer petitions of concerns for those who are struggling with the effects of addiction to opioids and other substances. You can pray anytime, anywhere for so many who are struggling. To become a Prayer Warrior and to receive the monthly newsletter with encouragement, helpful resources, and prayer requests, visit: ccda.net/need-help/prayer-warriors

Serve Our Young Parishioners: Volunteer with Rooted

Rooted only has 30% of the volunteers needed to make the middle school program run smoothly, especially with the change to an all-virtual format for the first time. We need your help to give our youth the Faith Formation experience they deserve.

There are many ways to help, both behind the scenes and directly with the youth, with a variety of time commitments, including:

- Small group facilitators (greatest need!)
- Station leaders
- Session coordinators and logistics coordinators
- Assistants (no prep required!)
- Other roles

Learn more and sign up at saintjn.org/rooted.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
(Matthew 18:20)
Thank You to the Meals Ministry

A new parishioner who recently received a meal train shared this thank-you note:

“When I was diagnosed with liver cancer less than six months after moving to Reston, I was devastated. I had just left behind my home of 30 years. Gone were my neighbors, friends, church and Garden Club. I wondered how I would ever get through the cancer let alone a liver transplant, which is the only cure for this type of cancer.

Well, I need not have worried because after visiting several churches in my new Community, I landed at St. John Neumann. My husband and I are overwhelmed by the support the church has provided to us not only through the incredible “Meal Train” but through the many prayers that I have felt during some of my more difficult times of my recovery. Thankfully, I am feeling great right now and just need to work on increasing my stamina. I just get a little tired.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

Job Opportunity in Leesburg

Trinity House Café seeks individuals with a heart for service to join their team of Barista-Cooks. Submit an application at trinityhousecafe.com/application. Trinity House Café, at the corner of Church and Market Streets in historic downtown Leesburg, offers a full coffee bar, delicious menu, art, gifts, books, and warm hospitality in a quaint Catholic setting.

Showing of Just Mercy and Talk on Racism

The SJN Racial Justice Ministry is showing the award-winning 2019 film Just Mercy on Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Just Mercy tells the true story of Walter McMillian, a Black man convicted and sentenced to death in Alabama in 1988 for a crime he did not commit. This is the first of several events in the ministry’s fall program, “Healing Division: Exploring Issues of Racial Justice in Our Society and Our Church.”

On Sept. 25, at 7 p.m., Fr. Tuck Grinnell will give a talk entitled “The Virus of Racism,” also via Zoom.

RSVP to racial.justice.sjn@gmail.com for either or both events.

Men’s Silent Retreat

The annual Men’s Silent Retreat weekend at San Damiano Spiritual Life Center in White Post, VA, will be held Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m.—Oct. 18 at noon. The theme is “The Way Forward: Perfection, Courage and Hope” with Fr. Anthony Giampietro, C.S.B. It includes daily Mass, conferences, time for private prayer, consecration, and spiritual direction. Cost: $325 early bird thru Sept. 10; $360 thereafter. Register at arlingtondiocese.org/retreatformen.

Mass for Marriage Jubilarians

If you were married in 1995 or 1970, you are invited to join Bishop Michael Burbidge for the 2020 Marriage Jubilee Mass, Oct. 4 at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington.

To register by Sept. 17, email info@saintjn.org with the date of your marriage and if you will attend the Mass in person. For more information, please visit arlingtondiocese.org/MJM.

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Spend Time with Jesus in Adoration

“The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time that you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in heaven, and will help bring about an everlasting peace on earth.” — St. Teresa of Calcutta (Feast Day Sept. 5).

Come spend a half hour with Jesus on Sept. 10 anytime within 3-8 p.m. in the de Sales Chapel. Call the liturgy office at 703-860-6151 or sign up outside of the chapel.

Virtual Classes for Adults 50+

The Shepherd’s Center, serving Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon, announced its fall 2020 Adventures in Learning classes for adults 50+ via Zoom. Register Sept. 1-22; one $45 tuition payment covers any classes during the term. Learn more at scov.org/ail.
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