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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After Hours Emergency: 571-464-3603
Español: 703-860-8510 x: 353
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
Bishop Burbidge’s Letter for Catechetical Sunday

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year of religious education is different than any other. On this year’s Catechetical Sunday, I have a special message for all parents: Thank you for answering the call to be the primary educators to your children. Our Lord will provide you with every grace necessary to share and nurture the faith in your families. Remember, the greatest gift you can give your children is your faith, which aligns with this year’s theme for Catechetical Sunday, “I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you.” The ultimate goal is to help your child become a saint.

I ask that you join me on this Catechetical Sunday in thanking our pastors, directors of religious education, and their faith formation teams. I commend the parishes for ensuring that the religious education classes and instruction are offered to all families in a safe and accommodating manner this year. Our parishes are always ready to support you and to provide you with any resources you need for this great ministry.

Please be assured of my continued prayers for you, your families, and your parish communities. May Our Lord Jesus bless you and keep you in His care.

Sincerely in Christ,
Most Revered Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

Happy Catechetical Sunday!
We are thankful for our SJN catechists

“I chose to become a catechist because I have always loved working with kids, and I just knew they would be imparting as much about faith, family, and God to me as I to them. We would grow together in faith.”

-Liz Skarlatos, SJN catechist

St. John Neumann Church • Reston, Virginia  September 19-20, 2020
This Sunday’s Readings

Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Philippians 1:20-24, 27; Matthew 20:1-16

In today’s Gospel, Jesus talks to us about the Kingdom of heaven, where God’s generous mercy and goodness far exceeds our concept of justice. St. Francis de Sales notes:

When there is absolutely no human good to hope for, it is precisely then that God’s awe-inspiring mercy shines forth and surpasses God’s justice. God’s ways are not our ways. God would sooner work miracles than leave us without help. For this reason, our Savior came to redeem us and deliver us from the tyranny of sin. The heart of our Savior is wholly filled with mercy and kindness for the human family.

God’s providence is wiser than what we are. We imagine we would feel better if we were on another ship. That may be, but only if we change ourselves! There is a real temptation to become dissatisfied and depressed about the world we have to live in. Truly, we must not lose heart. God will never abandon us. It is we who abandon God.

If you are troubled, you never want to leave God. An ounce of virtue practiced in adversity is worth more than a thousand pounds exercised in prosperity. We may be weak, but our weakness is not nearly as great as God’s mercy toward those who desire to love God and place all their hope in God. The problem is that all the nooks and corners of our hearts are cluttered with thousands of desires that prevent our Savior from giving us the gifts that He desires to shower on us.

We ought to be like the mariner who, in steering his vessel, always keeps his eye on the needle of the compass. We must keep our eyes open to correct our desires and have only one, that of pleasing God. Let our Lord reign in our hearts, as He desires. Then let us remain at peace, without hurry or fear in our hearts, and go on our little way. So long as we mean well and hold to our desire to love God, we are on the right track.

Adapted from the writings of St. Francis de Sales

Next Sunday’s Readings

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

Ezekiel 18:25-28: God does not stop with our past. He does not keep before us the sins of our ancestors. He is always ready to offer the gift of life to any who repent.

Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9: Remember Your Mercies, O Lord: It is a fact that we can always refuse God’s grace, refuse to be converted. And yet conversion is always possible. God’s grace is always present, instructing “sinners in the way.”

Philippians 2:1-11: To the Christians of Philippi, divided by their pride, Paul proposes the voluntary humility of the risen Jesus. In order to receive God’s gifts of unity and reconciliation, Christians must have in themselves the same attitudes that were in Christ.

Matthew 21:28-32: When we recognize our faults and repent, God does not hold our first refusal against us, but he looks to those works that are the fruits of repentance in our lives. The tax collectors and prostitutes welcomed by Jesus show us this.
From the Parish Nurse: Dealing with COVID Fatigue

“They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on eagles’ wings; they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.” Isaiah 40:31

So here we are, seven months into the pandemic and we are weary. We are tired of social restrictions, we are tired of wearing masks, we are tired of this wacky new normal of eating outside at restaurants with caution tape draped on every other table, and we are tired of living with tension and fear.

Everything we did “normally” has been turned upside down: Kids are attending school with a laptop in their kitchen; parents are dressed in “Zoom tops” and sweatpants working from their dining room tables; our favorite small businesses and restaurants we frequented are closing; airports and train cars are empty; and “live” theatre is an oxymoron, accessible only from a computer. This is one very long and paralyzing snow day, and we are so over it.

We are unaccustomed to thinking or behaving in straight lines with so many restrictions (except for the Design Review Board of course). We are a creative, self-empowered lot, and this pandemic has tempered and fairly humbled our independent nature. In our seventh month and with no end in sight, we are experiencing more than discouragement and frustration; we are in the full throes of “COVID-19 fatigue.” And this is the danger zone when the weary let their guard down, become vulnerable, and get sick. We need only look at colleges around the country to witness this phenomenon.

Now is the time to recommit ourselves to our goals to stay safe and stay strong against a virus that is tenacious, sometimes kills, and doesn’t take a day off. We all want to go back to our old gym, Wolf Trap concerts, Knights of Columbus pancake breakfasts, and grandma’s house for holidays. To get there, we must shake off the annoyance and inconvenience of COVID-19 restrictions and keep our eye on the ball. Today’s sacrifice is an investment toward a future of vigor and joy — like attending a birthday party, graduation, or wedding ceremony in person! We, heretofore, have been so blessed with good health and tremendous personal freedom. Now, we are called to duty; this is our time for self-discipline for our own safety and for the greater good. We can do this. We will do this. And we will turn to our God and humbly thank Him for our blessings, apologize for our litany of complaints, and petition for the virtues of hope and perseverance resolved as never before to be leaders, not just followers, in the fight against COVID-19 fatigue. Hang in there. We got this. #SJNstrong

“For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.” 2 Timothy 1:7

Photo by Anh Nguyen on Unsplash

Talk and Discussion: The Virus of Racism

On Sept. 25 at 7 p.m., Fr. Tuck Grinnell, retired pastor of St. Peter Church in Washington, VA, will present an online talk entitled “The Virus of Racism” followed by a discussion for the Racial Justice Ministry.

Please RSVP to racial.justice.sjn@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

Our thanks to Adams-Green Funeral Home & Crematory for sponsoring a bulletin ad

St. John Neumann Church • Reston, Virginia
Season of Creation Tip: Buy Fresh, Local, Organic Food

Food travels an average of 1,200 miles before it reaches your plate, so buying locally grown produce can save energy and prevent air pollution. Organics benefit the environment by not relying on synthetic pesticides or fertilizers that can contaminate soil and water. Fresh, local, and organic food can be healthier and taste better.

Come support the local food system at the Farmer’s Market in the SJN lower parking lot every Wednesday from 3-7 p.m. until mid-November. The market follows COVID-19 protocols. Reusable bags welcome.

Open House: Tau Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order

The Tau Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order invites you to “come and see” if you have a vocation as a Secular Franciscan at a virtual Annual Open House on Oct. 4 at 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit tauofs.org or email Kimberley Heatherington at taufranciscans@gmail.com.

Spent an hour — stay a lifetime!

Volunteer Opportunities

Feed the Hungry

For nearly 10 years, SJN parishioners have picked up and delivered dozens of baked goods that otherwise would be thrown away — join us.

Pick up bakery products from the Fair Lakes Whole Foods Market at 8:45 p.m. and deliver them to the Cornerstones Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston or the Food for Others facility in Merrifield by 9:30 p.m. Volunteers rotate, so the commitment can be one night every one or two weeks. Volunteers must follow COVID-19 safety guidelines.

If interested in this rewarding effort, please contact Ed Sabo at 703-689-3427 or saboedward@aol.com.

Spanish Translation/Proofreading

Are you a fluent Spanish speaker? Help translate SJN content from English to Spanish or proofread text that has already been translated. Email Megan Rogers, communications manager, at mrogers@saintjn.org.

Transcription

Do you have experience with transcription or stenography? Help write transcripts for SJN videos that need captioning. Email Megan Rogers, communications manager, at mrogers@saintjn.org.

Young Adult Brunch and Guided Reflections

Meet fellow young adults (ages 21-39) for a lunch social after the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sept. 20 in the SJN lower parking lot. Lunch is provided; bring a lawn chair and face masks. This event will follow COVID-19 safety protocols.

Join Fr. Michael Vannicola on Wednesday evenings for a virtual guided reflection on the upcoming Sunday readings for young adults.

For both events, join by emailing Eric Muñoz at emunoz@saintjn.org.

Virtual Retreat for Seriously Ill and their Caregivers

“The Lord is with you to guard you on your way”

Catholic Charities hosts a virtual Day of Recollection for Persons Facing Illness and their Caregivers on Oct. 2, the Feast of the Guardian Angels, 3–6 p.m. Retreat talks cover prayer, reflection, and renewal and provide emotional and spiritual care for those who are ill and their caregivers. The event includes a rosary and a Mass celebrated by Bishop Burbidge.

RSVP at retreat@ccda.net. Participate in the retreat via livestream: arlingtondiocese.org/YouTubeRetreatforSeriouslyIll.

Save a Life: Donate Blood

The Knights of Columbus Family of Man Council’s quarterly Red Cross Blood Drive at SJN is Sept. 26, 8 a.m.–2 p.m., in the auditorium. Register at redcrossblood.org using the sponsor code STJOHNNEUMANNA or call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767. Email John Moran at jlmoran73@gmail.com for more information.

The Red Cross has extra screening and distancing measures for safety and is testing all donations for COVID-19 antibodies.

Learn More about the Racial Justice Ministry

Fr. Michael Vannicola and parishioner Wyatt Middleton discuss the new Racial Justice Ministry in a five-minute video on the SJN website at saintjn.org/serving-our-parish-family/racial-justice-ministry.

Cornerstones Van Accepting Donations

The Cornerstones van will be in the SJN parking lot Sept. 26-27. Drop off non-perishable donations, especially sugar, oatmeal, flour, vinegar, and canned meats, in the back of the van for our neighbors in need.

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