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
11900 Lawyers Road
Reston, VA 20191
Phone: 703-860-8510, Fax: 703-860-2136
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
How to Report Sexual Abuse:

- If an emergency, call 911
- Child Protective Services; Virginia Dept. of Social Services: 800-552-7096
- Victim’s Assistance for Diocese of Arlington: Frank Moncher, 703-841-2530 victimassistance@arlingtondiocese.org
- Victim’s Assistance for the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales: Kate McCauley, LCSW, 571-766-6840

St. John Neumann Church • Reston, Virginia

September 12-13, 2020

It’s No Fun To Be Lost
Fr. Richard R. DeLillio, OSFS

Hearing the words, “I miss you” from the right person is very healing. —Anonymous

We all know what it’s like to be lost. We can’t find our way and we feel stranded, frustrated, and maybe a hint of anger, because we have to correct it. What to do? If we’re driving, we pull into a service station, recalculate our GPS, or roll down the window and ask the driver next to us. The point is we don’t want to be lost for all kinds of reasons. Staying lost is not comfortable especially when getting to a particular place is paramount.

Well, God found us to love and invites us into his life. God invites: “You are my people, and I am your God.” Yet, at times, we get lost trying to be God’s people. And this happened immediately from creation’s start. Adam and Eve tried first, but that untouchable fruit tree was just too tough to avoid. Taking one bite, they found themselves lost. This trend continues even now!

What causes our getting lost in answering God’s summoms after our enthusiastic beginning? Often its life’s distractions, tiredness, routine boredom, problems at home or on the job, money matters, or any unexpected surprises, to name a few. Any of these can steer us in a different direction where we find ourselves lost.

God has great foresight and He saw this coming. He doesn’t want us to panic. God loves us too much to get angry and stay angry. Instead, God would rather help and give us the solution for our confusion.

This is what makes God so caring. He can put aside judgments about why we got lost and immediately help us back on track. Isn’t that the way it should be? If we love someone, we can’t judge their whole life by one simple mistake. God knows the last wrong decision that got you lost isn’t the whole you. You are more than your last abysmal blunder. Our God always sees the whole you and wants the whole you found.

God’s son, Jesus, acts in the same manner. He came to save everyone who listens to Him. He wants no one lost and everyone to be found. God sent his son Jesus to show everyone the truthful way back. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He is His Father’s voice and has the Father’s message to lead the way.

In fact, Jesus declared: “If one sheep gets lost, I will leave the remaining ninety-nine to search for it.” Jesus never counts the cost to Himself. His thoughts are always about us because being found is of utmost importance to Him.

To describe this importance, Jesus uses the beautiful image of the poor widow who lost money in her home. She searched until she found it. Afterwards, she was so happy that she threw a party for all her friends. Jesus ended His story saying: “It’s like this in heaven when someone lost is found.”

Don’t you wish we could respond in our lives to people who disappoint us and become lost just as God and His Son do? We can if we too remember why we love them. Letting the answer to that question simmer within us for a while may open our hearts to finding them too.
This Sunday’s Readings:
Sirach 27:30-28:7, Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12, Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35

Today’s readings challenge us to forgive each other. Gathered here are some thoughts on forgiveness that reflect the teachings of St. Francis de Sales:

Forgiveness is hard to do. While we desire to forgive, we still let our feelings of anger sway us. Yet, if we let anger reign in our heart it grows from a twig to a large branch. The greatest motive for not harboring anger in our heart is that it does not allow us to flourish as a healthy, lively human being. Forgiveness, on the other hand, leads to our wholeness in Christ, whose Spirit floods our hearts with eternal love.

Yet, deep hurts that return again and again remind us that they can never be fully eliminated. Just when we think we’ve been victorious in forgiving, we find our anger stirred up again in our hearts. We’ve thrown it out the front door, but like a strong wind, anger comes again through a back window in need of repair.

Nonetheless, we do not have to let our weaknesses control our lives. God does not order us to keep anger from coming into our heart, only that anger ought not to reign in our heart. Little by little we become victorious in forgiving as we very gently put our heart back into God’s hands and ask God to heal it. Tell God how you desire to forgive as Jesus forgives. For it is in Jesus that we must place all our affections.

By nurturing sacred love in our heart through prayer and the sacraments, we forgive as Jesus forgives. For it is in Jesus that we must place all our affections. By keeping our heart back into God, we allow our Savior to enter our hearts and explore the rooms that require repair. We must not be disturbed but rather glory in our infirmities so that God’s power may shine through us. Our deepest hurts remind us of our own weaknesses, and of our need to be more compassionate with others’ weaknesses. In that lies the power of forgiveness.

Adapted from the writings of St. Francis de Sales

Daily Mass Intentions
Saturday, September 12
Buddy Sayles †

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

Monday, September 14
Teresa Kwapiszewski †

Tuesday, September 15
George Murphy †

Wednesday, September 16
Mauricio Robles †
Paul Schwab (special intention)

Thursday, September 17
John Delancy †

Friday, September 18
Aldo Clagnaz and Dussa Hunt ††

Saturday, September 19
Joseph Duffy Sr. †

Sunday, September 20
Donald Gross †
People of the Parish (special intention)
Dina Ibarcena †
Richard Luebke †
Rafael Mutis †

Sacramental Celebrations
Baptisms: Cayden Anthony Irizarry, Willa Elise Lamontagne

Prayer Lists
Please offer your prayers this week for the following:
Sick: Joy Mulata
Deceased: Beverly Brooks, aunt of Greg Lavender; Carrie Lilly, mother of Eowyn Dendtler; Ethel Souza, mother of Janette Tatge

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

Isaiah 55:6-9: Since the ways of God go beyond human judgment, the sinner has no reason to fear an encounter with God. The sinner must repent and will be forgiven.

Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18: The Lord is near to all who call upon Him: The divine wisdom and mercy are infinite: “His greatness is unsearchable.”

Philippians 1:20-24, 27: Faced with his approaching death, the imprisoned Paul sends his sentiments to his brothers and sisters. Renouncing the joy of rejoining Christ, he prefers to continue his work of evangelization among them.

Matthew 20:1-16: It is useless to discuss here the logic or social import of the attitude of the vineyard master. With God there is no question of rights. Christians, who have come last, are as much the objects of God’s love as those first called, the people of Israel.
Knights of Columbus Family of the Month

The Byrne family has been selected by Family of Man Council 7566 Knights of Columbus as its Family of the Month for August. The Byrne family have been parishioners at St. John Neumann since 1988, and Eddie became a Knight and joined the Family of Man Council in 1994. With this honor, the Council recognizes the contributions of the Byrne family to the very successful food drive that the Council recently conducted for the Cornerstones food bank. Eddie initiated, planned, and coordinated the operation, and his daughters, Kerianne and Irelynn, promoted it on social media platforms, which greatly increased the number of donations. The Council collected and delivered more than 2,800 pounds of food and supplies to the food bank.

Eddie has served the parish and Council as a catechist, Eucharistic minister, Red Cross blood drive coordinator, and team leader for the hypothermia shelter. He currently serves as community committee chairman and coordinates, with county staff, the annual Healthy Families dinner, which is held in the St. John Neumann auditorium. His wife, Dennie, and their four adult children have all participated in various parish activities and ministries over the years. They are an exemplary Catholic family. Congratulations and best wishes to the Byrne family!

Stewardship Reflection

“For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.” - Romans 14:8

This is the essence of stewardship — everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He is calling you to live the life that He intended for you.

Job Seeker Assistance Program

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington's Education and Workforce Development program provides resources and connections with job mentoring volunteers to assist individuals in seeking employment, resources, and improved employment. Assistance with résumé and cover letter writing, job searches, interview practice, and job mentoring is provided. Contact jobfairs@ccda.net or call 571-208-1572 for more program details.

Virtual Program: Mental Health in the Elderly

Tall Oaks Assisted Living is hosting a virtual presentation to help individuals to identify the signs of clinical depression and anxiety in elders led by Amanda LaRose. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Work Therapist, Certified Advanced Social Work Case Manager, and owner of We Care Management, LLC, with experience counseling adults of all ages, families, and caregivers. RSVP to Crystal Todd at 703-834-9800 or CTodd@TallOaksAL.com or join the Zoom video using the meeting ID: 878 3683 7543 and passcode: 679487.

Children’s Faith Formation Begins Sept. 13

Virtual Faith Formation Classes for grades 1-5 begin the week of Sept. 13. Caregivers for all children grades 1-5 who have registered with our program should have picked up their materials and received an email with their username and password to log into our online platform.

If you did not receive your materials or an email but your child is enrolled in our program for grades 1-5, please email Megan Gibson, Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, at mgibson@saintjn.org.

Mass for Disability Awareness

The annual Mass for Disability Awareness will be held on Sept. 27 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Annandale. All families with members with intellectual and developmental disabilities are invited.

Our thanks to Julia’s Housecleaning Services for sponsoring a bulletin ad

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Statement to the Parish Regarding David Haas

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann is aware of multiple allegations that David Haas, a composer of many songs that our parish has sung over the years, engaged in inappropriate sexual conduct with adult women.

While Haas’ music undoubtedly has enriched the faith journeys of many parishioners, the playing of his songs can be a trigger and may cause pain and hurt, regardless of intention. Survivors and victims of sexual harassment and abuse deserve our support and understanding. Our Church has suffered much from those who have abused power to harm others, and our parish should do everything it can to help the Church move toward healing and justice in its response to the sexual abuse scandal, ensuring that those most hurt truly feel they are welcome at St. John Neumann. Therefore, our parish will refrain from using the music of David Haas at regularly scheduled Masses and holy day liturgies at this time.

Information about the allegations against David Haas and the responses of GIA Publications (publisher of our parish hymnals) and the Archdiocese of St Paul-Minneapolis (where Haas works) are available on the ACTION ministry page of the parish website. Let us pray always, for those who have been hurt, for victims and abusers, and for healing in our Church.

Serve Our Young Parishioners: Volunteer with Rooted

Rooted still needs many volunteers to make the middle school program run smoothly, especially with the new all-virtual format. Help give our youth the Faith Formation they deserve.

There are many ways to help, both behind the scenes and directly with the youth, with a variety of time commitments. Learn more and sign up at saintjn.org/rooted.

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. to 2 p.m. in the auditorium. Register online at redcrossblood.org using the sponsor code STJOHNNEUMANNVA or call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 to register. Email John Moran at jfmoran73@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.

Re-Entry Mentors Needed for Returning Citizens

Catholic Charities’ Prison Ministry seeks volunteer mentors for the Welcome Home Re-Entry Program as role models and guides to recently released individuals. Welcome them home, connect them to available resources, provide positive, caring support. Learn more about the challenges facing people leaving jail and how you can help someone in transition by emailing volunteer@ccda.net.

Forgive your neighbor’s injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.  
(Sirach 28:2)
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