



**AN EASTER REFLECTION**

Often we hear in John’s Gospel about the lack of recognition of the Risen Jesus. On Easter Tuesday, Mary Magdalene thought he was a gardener. Last week, Thomas wouldn’t believe until he saw the nail marks and touched the wounds of his hands and side. This week, the disciples have followed Peter into the fishing boat, once again having no luck in catching fish, and when the Risen Jesus appears on the shore, they don’t even realize who he is. As is usually the case, St. John reminds us how Jesus turns our lack of recognition into a poignant reminder that he always loves us. With the simplest of words, gestures or thoughts Jesus can turn around our lives from the fear, anxiety, anger or confusion that engulfs us, to recognize how much he is right there in our lives.

For Mary Magdalene, it was when Jesus called out her name, “Mary!” that she realized who was standing there with her. Sometimes we too feel as if we stand alone in the midst of our sadness, weeping and searching for answers, wondering how we can fix a situation, lost in our desire to make things better and suddenly something strong and clear gets our attention. It’s someone reminding us that God has never let us down. It is that spiritual gift of courage which enables us to stop holding on to our fear and move forward, take a stand, let ourselves be lifted up by another. Then we too can pass this new-found conviction on to another in order that they too can announce, “I have seen the Lord.”

Thomas’ inability to recognize Jesus is changed when the Risen Jesus makes the connection between Thomas’ pain and Jesus’ suffering. When we can unite our current wounds with the struggles and pains of someone else, it may lead us to put things into perspective. But even more, we are reminded that our oneness with God involves the complete picture. Our God is not some sort of austere entity that we bow down to in a cowering gesture. Our God dies a humiliating death to touch our wounds and enter into the human condition and all its sorrow. Jesus’ living with us in all ways except in sin is to set his presence squarely in every aspect of our living. Once we acknowledge the truth of this we can join Thomas in one chorus, “My Lord and my God!”

Both of these realizations of how much the Risen Jesus turns our lives around are evident in the post-resurrections story of Peter and his disciples going fishing. There is the voice of remembrance that tells them to throw the nets on the other side. There is the willingness to strip ourselves of our self-centeredness and dive into life once again. John also adds another way for us to begin to recognize the rising of Jesus in the midst of all of life’s confusion. As we drag around the heaviness that life can truly become, we might simply need to pause and have breakfast on the beach! Maybe we will perceive Jesus better if we partake more in the humble and modest things of life. Taking time to listen, to have a heart-felt conversation with someone, to pray, to enjoy creation, to assess and re-evaluate priorities, or to just be, often enables us to place Jesus at the center of our needs.

All of these recognitions lead to what Jesus sees as the most important question we each need to ask ourselves, “Do we love him?” Is this Risen One the motivation for our choices? Are we willing to feed and tend the neediest among us? Can we allow Jesus to lead us into places we may not want to go, knowing we won’t be abandoned? If so, then indeed our recognition of Christ in our lives is strong, our openness to sacrifice for another out of love is real, and we can respond with joyful affirmation to Jesus’ challenge to, “Follow me.”

*Fr. Michael*

**MASS SCHEDULE**

*Nativity of Our Lord Church*  
 633 Orchard Street, Scranton  
*Holy Name of Jesus Church*  
 1414 E. Elm Street, Scranton

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil	4:30 p.m.	Nativity
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Holy Name
	10:00 a.m.	Nativity
	12:30 p.m.	Nativity-Spanish

Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday	12:10 p.m.	Nativity-Novena
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Holy Name
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	Holy Name
Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Nativity
Friday	8:00 a.m.	Holy Name

Holy Day Mass Schedule

Holy Day Vigil	5:30 p.m.	Holy Name
Holy Day	5:30 p.m.	Nativity
	7:00 p.m.	Nativity-Spanish

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 3:30-4:00 p.m. Nativity Lower Church. Anytime by appointment

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We the people of St. John Neumann Parish see the Eucharist as source and summit of our joyful faith. Our united purpose is building a deeper spirituality through loving neighbor and witnessing the Gospel to the world.

**WELCOME** Your presence is an encouragement to our parish community. It is our hope that you have experienced the joy of our Eucharistic Celebration and that you feel welcome with a desire to join us again. If you are new to the community and wish to join our parish, call the parish office at 344-6159.

**BIENVENIDOS** Su presencia es un gran animo hacia nuestra comunidad de la parroquia. Es nuestra esperanza de que hayan gozado la experiencia de nuestra Celebración Eucarística y que se sientan bienvenidos con el deseo de unirse a nosotros otra vez. Si usted es nuevo en la comunidad y desea unirse a nuestra parroquia contacte la oficina al numero 344-6159.

## MASS INTENTIONS Week of: May 6—12

<b>Monday</b>	12:10 p.m.	Patricia McCarthy Montalbano <i>at Nativity</i>	<i>By Yvonne Rafferty</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:00 a.m.	R.J. Miller <i>at Holy Name</i>	<i>By St. Catherine's Manor</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:00 a.m.	Msgr. James J. McGarry <i>at Holy Name</i>	<i>By Priests Purgatorial Society</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	8:00 a.m.	Mary Gallagher <i>at Nativity</i>	<i>By Tom Gallagher</i>
<b>Friday</b>	8:00 a.m.	Tom Simrell <i>at Holy Name</i>	<i>By Dolly Summers</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	4:30 p.m.	Nancy Smith <i>at Nativity</i>	<i>By Family</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	8:30 a.m.	Verna Trapper <i>at Holy Name</i>	<i>By Casper &amp; Lois Noto</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Bernice Murray <i>at Nativity</i>	<i>By Kevin &amp; Patti Mitchell</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	12:30 p.m.	People of the Parish <i>at Nativity</i>	<i>Spanish By the Parish</i>



**The Sanctuary Candle** will be burning in reverence and petition this week at Nativity in loving memory of **Mary Mullen** by Marita McGoff

**The Altar Bread & Wine** at Nativity were donated this week in memory of **Patricia McCarthy Montalbano** by Yvonne Rafferty

**The Altar Bread & Wine** at Holy Name were donated this week in memory of **William Joseph Gilday** by Rosemary Boland

## Pentecost Decorating

We are creating "decorative" hoops to be used for Pentecost and Confirmation Liturgies. This process involves the use of glue guns and folding of tissue paper flowers. If you can offer time to help, please call Sister Suzie 570-344-6159 ext. 161. A "make-it" gathering could be fun!! Looking for teens and adults only, to help with this project, due to the hot glue! No experience necessary, we will show you the way!

## Choir for Ordination to the Diaconate

Seminarian Jonathan Kuhar along with two other seminarians will be ordained to the Diaconate **Saturday, May 25**, St. Jude Church, Mountaintop. Our parish has been invited to participate in a combined choir for this special occasion. Ryan Caviston will conduct practices here at STJN to teach the music and then there will be combined practices the week before the ordination in Mountaintop. If you are interested in participating in this choir, please see Ryan Caviston as names need to be submitted.

## Cantors Needed

Cantor practices continue to be held on Tuesday evenings 6:30pm, upper church. Cantors are needed for ALL weekend liturgies. Call Ryan Caviston at 570-702-5926 if you have any questions.

## Liturgical Ministry Opportunities

Please take time to sign up to be a minister at one of the parish masses. The red sign-up binders are located on the piano in each church. Sign-up sheets are now set up for the months of May, June and July. If you are not a minister but would like to become a Eucharistic Minister, Lector or Altar Server, see one of the ministry team members we would love to add you to our team!

## Bishop's Youth Awards Mass

The following parishioners will be recognized at a special Diocesan Mass on **Tuesday, May 7** at St. Peter's Cathedral. We congratulate these students for their service to our parish. Grade 8 students: Aidan Casey, Kimberly Gallardo, Brenda Olmedo, Noah Saar, Ayden Talarico, Aida Tenezaca. Grade 12 students being recognized are: Victoria Barbosa, Abigail Huegel, Robert Lolli and Enrique Olmedo. These students will be recognized in the parish on **June 9** at our 10:00 Mass as well.

## Graduates!! A Mass to honor YOU is on June 9.

If you are a rising graduate (high school or college) or if you have a son or daughter reaching one of these milestones, then we want to celebrate with you! Our parish mass to honor our graduates is on **Sunday, June 9** at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Sister Suzie: 570-344-6159 ext. 161, or email: [sarmbrusterihm@gmail.com](mailto:sarmbrusterihm@gmail.com) with current mailing address, email address, phone number and school of graduation. Invitation letters will be mailed this week so please contact us with your current information as soon as possible.

# WORD



## FAITH FORMATION

— Ready, Set, Grow!

- 5-05: **First Eucharist EP2, RCIC2 10:00 Mass**
- 5-05: Classes Grade 6, CP1, CP2 5-6pm (last class)
- 5-06: Final Interviews Candidates with Fr. Michael
- 5-07: Final Interviews Candidates with Fr. Michael
- 5-08: Final Interviews Candidates with Fr. Michael
- 5-08: **Whole Family Faith Gathering EP1-Grade 5**  
— 5:30-6:30
- 5-09: Final Interviews Candidates with Fr. Michael
- 5-15: **Catechist Gathering 5:30-7:00 pm**
- 6-02: **First Eucharist RCIT 10:00**
- 6-02: **Confirmation Practice candidates 5-7pm**
- 6-02: **Confirmation Practice w/Sponsors**  
— 6:30-7:00

### FF CLASSES GRADE 6, CP1 AND CP2

**Tonight ends** formal classes for this school year. Thank you to our families who participated in these classes and made Faith Formation a priority in your child's spiritual life. THANK YOU to our catechists as well. Your willingness to walk this journey with our young teens is so appreciated.

### EP1-GRADE 5 WHOLE FAMILY GATHERING

Join us this Wednesday, May 8 as we pray and celebrate the end of formal classes. This is a **Whole Family Gathering, 5:00-6:00 pm**. Our theme will be the Holy Spirit and Care of our Earth! It will also be a time to thank our catechists for sharing this special faith journey with our children.

### CONFIRMATION

Our parish will be celebrating Confirmation on Pentecost weekend. As a parish community let us pray that our young teens will be blessed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Confirmation is **Saturday, June 8** at our 4:30 parish mass. Continue to hold all of our young teens in prayer.

### CONFIRMATION PRACTICE

There is **ONE REQUIRED** practice for Confirmation. Practice is **Sunday, June 2**, 5:00-7:00 pm. Sponsor or a parent is required to join the practice from 6:30-7:00 pm. Practice will be held in the upper church.

### CP2 FINAL INTERVIEWS

ALL Confirmation Candidates are required to attend a final interview with our pastor, Father Michael. Interviews will be held this week; **May 6-9**. At least one parent is required to attend this final interview with your teen. If you cannot make the time assigned to you, make arrangements with a classmate and then notify the office (570-344-6159 ext. 161).

# COMMUNITY

## FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION FOR 2019-2020



Faith Formation Registration for next year will be held in June this year. This will help us in purchasing materials at a discount price. Please watch the bulletin for specific dates in early June. ALL registered STJN parish children are expected to participate in the parish Faith Formation program unless they attend a Catholic school. If you have questions, call Sister Suzie: 570-344-6159 ext. 161.

### WOMEN OF FAITH - Tea and Prayer

Join us for a cup of tea and together let us share faith and good conversation. We gather on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month 12:30-1:30pm in the rectory dining room. This is a great opportunity to join other women who desire to grow in faith and get to know one another. For more information contact Sister Suzie.

*Our next gathering is **Wednesday, May 15.***

### LUNCH TOGETHER - Senior Luncheons

Looking for an opportunity to go out to lunch? Then join US! Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month we enjoy lunching together. We dine at a different restaurant each month and enjoy good food and good company. If you are 55+, male or female, then this is for you!! Our next **gathering is May 8**, 11:30 at Terry's Diner.

*RSVP to parish office by Monday, May 6.*



### FAITH QUESTION OF THE WEEK

**Adults:** In what ways are you answering Jesus' command to Peter to "feed my sheep"?

**Kids:** What do you do to take care of others as Jesus asked Peter to do?

### MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Michael Bryant, Pastor  
Rev. Ryan Glenn, Assoc. Pastor  
Deacon Albert Giacometti  
Sr. Susan Armbruster, IHM

### EMAIL ADDRESS

[mbryant@stjnparish.org](mailto:mbryant@stjnparish.org)  
[rglenn@stjnparish.org](mailto:rglenn@stjnparish.org)  
[albgia@msn.com](mailto:albgia@msn.com)  
[sarmbrusterihm@gmail.com](mailto:sarmbrusterihm@gmail.com)

# SERVICE - STJN

# STEWARDSHIP



## BROWN BAG MINISTRY

Join us **Sunday, May 5** at 11:30am for our next "Brown Bag" ministry as we work together to make sandwiches and pack "to go" lunches. The lunches are distributed to the homeless and hungry in our area. In addition to making lunches, this is a great opportunity to connect with other STJN parishioners. EVERYONE is invited to come to the auditorium whether to help make lunches or just sip a cup of coffee and enjoy a donut! Check out the sign-up sheets located in the back of church to see what is needed or call Carl and Trish Kmiec at 570-961-1555.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

The dream for our community garden is evolving and we believe the first step is to start small and make it a kid-friendly garden! Our hope is to plant a small "flower cutting" garden that our families (young and not so young) can help maintain and share the flowers with parishioners. Gardening would take place on **Sunday mornings** between the 10:00 and 12:30 Masses. AND of course to make this one of our hospitality happenings sharing a glass of lemonade as well. If this interests you, contact Sister Suzie 570-344-6159 ext. 161. We are hoping to make this a raised bed. We are looking for donations of a raised garden bed, good soil, seeds/plants of cutting flowers and herbs, LONG gardening hoses, and some folks wanting a new earth friendly adventure. Everyone enjoys flowers don't you?

## STEP UP TO THE PLATE

"Step Up to the Plate" is one of our parish outreach ministries and this ministry provides a meal on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month to those at C.I.C. Consider signing up to provide something towards this meal. Sign-up boards are in the back of both churches. For more information contact our parish coordinators: Ann Talerico 570-614-3633 or Teri Millard 570-430-1690.

## HANDS OF HOPE - Prayer Shawl Ministry

If you crochet or knit we are in need of "prayer shawls" i.e. lap blankets. We can provide yarn (given by a generous donor). Prayer shawls are truly gifts from the heart to the heart of the receiver. If you can help, please contact Sister Suzie 570-344-6159 ext. 161.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY "FOOD" SUNDAY

The food pantry is in need of non-perishable food items such as: beans, rice, pasta, sauce, canned meats, vegetables, cereal and other staples. Items can be dropped off any time to the parish office or the baskets located at church entrances or on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Food Sunday. All donations are greatly appreciated.

## INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT

	<u>Easter 2019</u>	<u>Easter 2018</u>
Easter	\$ 5,935.00	\$ 6,043.00
Loose	\$ 1,993.75	\$ 1,408.30
Other	\$ <u>9,848.50</u>	\$ <u>13,217.00</u>
Total	\$ 17,777.25	\$ 20,668.30



*April 15-21 Expenses paid from general acct. = \$7,219.88*

## PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

St. John Neumann Parish is looking for help in our parish office. We need someone to answer phones, greet people at the door, use Word/Excel, enter information into our Parish Data System, and other assorted clerical duties. This **paid position** will be 8-10 hours per week, (Mondays and Tuesdays: 4-5 hours per day)



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are also looking for dedicated volunteers to help out with office work 2 to 4 hours per month (at home or in office). Interested? **Call** Father Michael 570-344-6159.

## REMEMBERING OUR PARISH

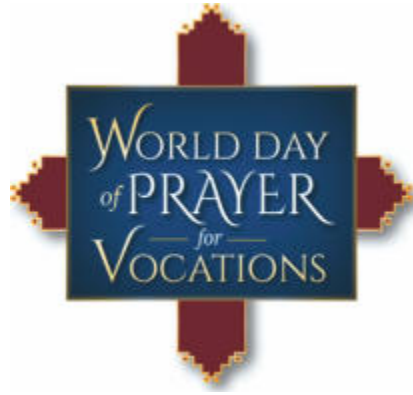
We are most grateful to our Parish families who have decided to designate St. John Neumann the recipient for memorial donations of deceased loved ones. There are many ways to memorialize or pay tribute in the way of a bequest. Some benefactors choose to name St. John Neumann in their Will or Trust as a recipient. Leaving your legacy gift to our Parish serves to ensure future growth and stability in sustaining our STJN churches for decades to come. Thank you.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMORIAL DONATIONS

<u>In memory of:</u>	<u>Offered by:</u>
Lindsey Smurl	Mitsubishi Electric Trane
Timothy Burke	Yvonne Rafferty
Timothy Burke	Lorraine Craig
Timothy Burke	Helen Simrell
Timothy Burke	Lehigh Valley Center
Sally Robertson	Joseph & Sharon Keating
Sally Robertson	Elizabeth & Bernard Scanlon
William Gilday	Ann Marie Freeman
William Gilday	Carol Summa
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William Gilday	Donald & Donna Manley



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## 56<sup>TH</sup> WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

MAY 12, 2019

My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

*John 10:27*



"The Lord's call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a "cage" or burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be a part of a great understanding. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch."

Pope Francis, January 2019 Memorial to St. John Bosco



### FIRST EUCHARIST BANNERS AND CERTIFICATES

Parents of students in **EP2** and **RCIC2** classes, please remember to pick up banners **next Sunday, May 12** after all Masses. Banners will only be held in the back of the church until June 1. Unclaimed banners will not be kept after June 1. Don't miss out on this special keepsake of your child's special day. Remember to pick up your child's certificate as well. Watch the bulletin for when photos will be available.

### FIRST EUCHARIST RCIT

The students in our **RCIT Class** will be receiving First Eucharist on **Sunday, June 2** at the **10:00 parish Mass**. Please hold these students in prayer as we welcome them to the Eucharistic table with us.

### FIRST EUCHARIST CLASS MAY 2019

#### EP2 Class

- Dylan Camacho
- Lianyz Crespo-Flores
- Albert Feliciani
- Kimberly Fuentes
- Destiny Gibson
- Daniel Goicochea
- Lauren Lesniak
- Katie Maldonado
- Maya Maldonado
- Ivan Martinez
- Edgar Mendoza
- Lumary Nunez
- Erick Nunez
- Joshua Garcia Perez
- Anna Picca
- Holden Polishan
- Bryan Rivas
- Karissa Rivas
- Axel Rodriguez
- Alexandra Villarreal
- Gavin Warunek

#### RCIC2 Class

- Carlos Alicea
- Gabriela Alicea
- Edward Pena Cortes
- Roman Camarillo
- Onix Crespo Flores
- America Fuente
- Aceline Hernandez
- Dominick Hernandez
- Nataly Lopez
- Jeilene Maldonado
- Keylin Maldonado
- Kenneth Maldonado
- Erick Maldonado
- Yamilette Maldonado
- Jessica Mendoza
- Melanie Perea
- Brandon Perea
- Denise Quindi
- David Ramos
- Joadrick Rodriguez
- Derrell Tabron
- Lesly Temozihui
- Kenneth Turuda
- Stacy Vivar
- Ashley Zhagnay



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