



**AN EASTER REFLECTION** *My Hometown Library*

I am sitting in the library in my hometown writing this reflection. I came home to celebrate Mother's Day. We had a wonderful day. As I sit here, expecting some peace and quiet in a LIBRARY, there is a conversation going on by two gentlemen talking about beer and politics! I guess the notion that you don't talk in the library is long gone!



Who knows what expectations Paul and Barnabas had, as they traveled through all the strange-named towns in the first reading from Acts of the Apostles. The appointed elders continue to be inspired by the faith they have. The number of disciples is growing larger. Even the Gentiles, who had little understanding of the roots of the grace of God which nurtured Jesus, have been opened to the faith of his disciples. Maybe all of this was happening because their expectations of how they would be perceived, let alone accepted, were not important to them. They wanted to bring Jesus' message and mission of mercy and justice, and that was all that mattered.

John's vision in the book of Revelation is of a new heaven and a new earth. The former creation has passed away and the fullness of God's creation continues in the complete union of the human race. Also, God's promise of always being with us continues, wiping out death and mourning, wailing and pain. It all sounds quite naïve, but maybe that is exactly the point. If we stay wrapped up in an order of life filled with negativity, always attempting to get what we are "due," is it possible for anything to become new? How can we ever lead people to a new order of hope and peace, if our eyes are not open, our minds are not attentive, and our souls are not bursting with gratitude?

Jesus in John's Gospel watches Judas walk away burdened by his own hypocrisy and fears, and yet, he is able to recognize the glory of God. Jesus' expectations of what the reign of God is, are not in his hands. God alone brings about this renewal of heart, mind and soul. Jesus has no naïve notion of what is to become of his life. He has lived in the fullness of humanity. He knows all our greatness and wisdom, and all our pettiness and sin. Yet, he still invites us into his discipleship knowing that through the sufferings of life we find how to enter into the glory of God. All of this is grounded in one principle – love one another.

The two neighbors have finished their conversation and I discovered trying not to eavesdrop, that their "political" bent is actually not too far from mine. Not quite sure if our tastes for beer is similar! As I know gaze around into this world that was one of my hangouts as a student, I reminisce about the Hardy Boy stories that I couldn't wait to read, and I remember coming here to meet other friends in high school. I look around and see a woman smiling as she tutors a little boy; their differences in race never entering the picture. The library is still filled with books and still opens peoples' worlds with knowledge and dreams. There are computers now to educate and refresh. If you can't find the information you need, all we need to do is tap into the world of the internet and our small-town ideas become broader then we ever imagined. Isn't this how the graces of God become real? When we allow God's love to permeate every corner of our lives, when we take the time to incorporate this love into our bodies and spirits, and when we return God's love into every encounter of our lives, no matter how unexpected, we live as disciples of Jesus' love. I chuckle, once again this library has brought me home!

*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 20-26

<b>Monday</b>	12:10 p.m.	<b>Miesko Family</b>
	<i>at Nativity</i>	<i>By Family</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:00 a.m.	<b>Liana Giacometti</b>
	<i>at Holy Name</i>	<i>By Ann Marie Freeman</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:00 a.m.	<b>Joseph Cummings</b>
	<i>at Holy Name</i>	<i>By Cummings Girls</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	8:00 a.m.	<b>Rev. Charles O'Donnell</b>
	<i>at Nativity</i>	<i>By Family</i>
<b>Friday</b>	8:00 a.m.	<b>Violet Ceccacci</b>
	<i>at Holy Name</i>	<i>By Casper &amp; Lois Noto</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	4:30 p.m.	<b>Bernard Lacomis</b>
	<i>at Nativity</i>	<i>By Family</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	8:30 a.m.	<b>Birtel Wintermantel Family</b>
	<i>at Holy Name</i>	<i>By Family</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	10:00 a.m.	<b>Violet Kerrigan</b>
	<i>at Nativity</i>	<i>By Family</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	12:30 p.m.	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	<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 **Thomas Riedmiller**  
*Requested by Marilyn Pagnani*

## 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)

## PENTECOST DECORATING

Thanks to our volunteers, we are almost done. But we still have a few more hours of work creating "decorative hoops" to be used for Pentecost and Confirmation Liturgies. This process involves the folding of tissue paper flowers and then using a hot glue gun! If you can offer time to help, please call Sister Suzie 344-6159 ext. 161.

## CANTORS

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.

## LITURGIAL 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!

## GRADUATES!! A Mass to honor YOU is 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 **10:00AM, Sunday June 9**. It is very important to **RSVP/Regrets so we can plan accordingly**. If you are graduating and did not receive an invitation, please call the parish office so we can include you! Our prayers are with all those graduating and beginning a new life journey.

## 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.

# WORD

# COMMUNITY



## FAITH FORMATION

— *Ready, Set, Grow!*

### FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

6-2: First Eucharist RCIT 10:00

6-2: Confirmation Practice Candidates 5:00-7:00 pm

6-2: Confirmation Practice with Sponsors 6:30-7:00 pm

6-8: Confirmation 4:30 Parish Mass

### THANK YOU, CATECHISTS

On behalf of our students and families we extend a heart-felt thank you to all of our catechists who helped our children grow in faith and in their relationship with Jesus! Your dedication to planning and sharing faith with our children is definitely a blessing! Thank you, thank you and thank you!

### TAKE THE LEAP!

As one year finishes we begin to plan for next year! We are hoping this is the year you take the "leap" and join our team of catechists for next year! Our class sizes range from 15-20 students and a bit larger in our sacramental prep classes. To find out more contact Sr. Suzie. Our children are super and so eager to learn about our faith!

### FIRST EUCHARIST BANNERS

Parents of students in **EP2** and **RCIC2 classes**, please remember to pick up banners. Banners are located in back of the church until June 1<sup>st</sup>. Don't miss out on this special keepsake of your child's special day.

### FIRST EUCHARIST PICTURES

Pre-ordered picture packages are anticipated to be available in early June. Please watch bulletin for pick-up dates. For those who took pictures after First Communion mass, we would love for you to share your photos with us! Text photos to 252-670-7906; or Email pictures to [sarmbrusterihm@gmail.com](mailto:sarmbrusterihm@gmail.com)

### FIRST EUCHARIST RCIT

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

### CONFIRMATION

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

### CONFIRMATION PRACTICE

There is ONE REQUIRED practice for Confirmation on **Sunday, June 2, 2019, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Sponsors** or a parent is required to join the practice from **6:30-7:00 p.m.** (in the upper church).

**LUNCH TOGETHER** Looking for an opportunity to go out to lunch? Then join US! Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month we dine at a different restaurant and enjoy good food and good company. If you are 55+, male or female, this is for you! Our next gathering is Wednesday, June 12 at Olive Garden.

### YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

There are several wonderful opportunities to connect with your faith and with others your age through these great Diocesan Programs.

#### Up and Over:

Retreat for Grades 6-8, May 31-June 2.

#### Light the Fire Youth Rally:

Grades 9-12—June 26 (10:00 am-9:00 pm)

Guest speaker: Noelle Garcia.

#### International Student Leadership Institute:

Grades 9-12—July 8-11.

These are just some of the SAVE THE DATES. Check out the Diocesan Website for more information and to register. Don't miss out on these wonderful opportunities to grow in your faith and to CONNECT with others.



### **FAITH QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

**Adults:** When have you seen the power of love overcome a bad situation?

**Kids:** Do you believe love is stronger than hate? Why?

### **Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor:**

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of PA's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at [www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis). It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Joseph DeVizia at (570-862-7551) or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., (570-207-2269).



Please refrain from parking in the private parking area behind the church - between the school and convent.

**Thank you. We appreciate your cooperation.**

# SERVICE – STJN

# STEWARDSHIP

**BROWN BAG MINISTRY** continues to grow! THANK YOU to everyone who has donated food items, funds, time and energy to make this new ministry such a success. In addition to making lunches, this is a great way to connect with other parishioners in a social way. Join us the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, 11:30 a.m. in the auditorium to make lunches, sip a cup of coffee or 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 with any questions.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN** Our STJN garden project has begun and we are excited! But we need help! How can you pitch in? We are looking to build two raised beds for cut flowers and maybe some herbs. The plan is to make this space family friendly so young and not so young can garden. While gardening, we look forward in making this one of our "hospitality" happenings sharing a glass of lemonade as well. We are looking for donations of a wood to build the boxes, seeds/plants of cutting flowers and herbs, LONG gardening hoses, and some folks wanting a new earth friendly adventure. If you can help dig the beds, build two boxes, donate any of the above items please contact us at 344-6159 ext. 161. Time is ticking away and we need to get planting.

**STEP UP TO THE PLATE** is one of our parish outreach ministries which 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 information, contact our parish coordinators: Ann Talerico 570-614-3633 or Teri Millard 570-430-1690. **THANK YOU** to those who continually help with this ministry.

**FEEDING OTHERS** First Communions, Confirmations, Mother's Day, Graduations, Family Reunions are all great times to gather and celebrate and most times there is plenty to eat and plenty left. Keep in mind those who would welcome you donating extra food. CIC provides shelter and food to the homeless in our area. Food can be delivered to: 445 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The center is open daily 8-6pm, contact #570-342-4298.

**HANDS OF HOPE - Prayer Shawl Ministry**  
We are in need of "prayer shawls" i.e. lap blankets. We can provide yarn (given by a generous donor) but need those who can crochet or knit.. Prayer shawls are truly gifts from the heart to the heart of the receiver. If you can help, please contact 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.

## PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN NEUMANN PARISH:



**Part-Time Maintenance Person Wanted:**  
Routine maintenance and janitorial services for parish buildings and grounds. Nativity and Holy Name properties. 20-25 hours per week. Weekdays and Saturday mornings required.

**Part-Time Cleaning Person Wanted:**  
Routine cleaning of Nativity Church and Convent building. 10-15 hours per week.



**Part-Time Secretary Wanted:**  
Answer phones, greet people at the door, use Word/Excel, enter information into our Parish Data System, and other assorted clerical duties. 8-10 hours per week. (Mondays and Tuesdays).



**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).

## 88 DAYS AND COUNTING!

We are very happy to announce Saint John Neumann Parish Festival coming **August 15, 16 and 17, 2019!** Preparations are now underway. This is the perfect time to come out, offer your time and talents, have some fun, all while working together with fellow parishioners for the future of your parish. It's a wonderful experience and a great opportunity to come together as a parish. We hope you will join us! **Save the dates!**



Our first Festival planning meeting will be scheduled soon. Watch bulletin for more Festival news!

**Our Festival Chairpersons are:**  
Eileen Huegel, George Schneider, Jr., Joe Luongo, Angeles & Frank Youells

## INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT

	May 5, 2019	May 6, 2018
Tithe	\$ 4,796.00	\$ 5,785.00
Loose	\$ 915.49	\$ 657.66
Other	\$ 4,187.10	\$ 5,877.99
Total	\$ 9,898.59	\$ 12,320.65



April 29-May 5 expenses paid from gen.acct. = \$12,175.99



We would like to thank **SCRANTON GRINDER** for sponsoring an ad in our bulletin.



On May 25, Jonathon Kuhar who served with us last summer as a seminarian, will be ordained a transitional deacon. He has been assigned to us by Bishop Bambera for this summer and at various times throughout the year as he finishes his last year of the seminary. This is an exciting time for the Church and our parish. Please read the announcement sent to us by the diocese and join in Jonathon's celebration.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ORDINATION WEEKEND 2019!**

*Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will ordain Mr. Jonathan Kuhar, Mr. Kevin Miller and Mr. Shawn Simock to the Order of the Diaconate for service in the Diocese of Scranton on Saturday, May 25, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in Saint Jude Church, Mountain Top. The 'young Church' will pray with and for Jonathan, Kevin and Shawn at their May "XLT"(Exalt) on Friday, May 24, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in St. Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke. The evening will consist of Eucharistic Adoration, praise and worship music, brief reflection, reconciliation, and a social. For more information, contact the Diocesan Vocation Office: (570)207-1452.*

Register now for the  
**Annual Crusader Classic!**  
**June 1, 2019**

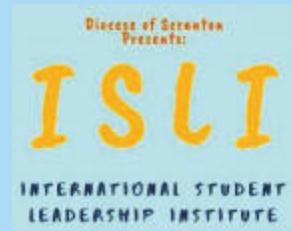
Holy Cross High School is hosting its annual Crusader Classic 5K and "Orlando" Mile Race on Saturday, June 1, 2019. Race begins at 8:30 a.m. with a start and finish at Holy Cross High School, Dunmore. Pre-registration is \$22 (\$25 day of) for the 5K and \$17 (\$20 day of) for the "Orlando" Mile. Register online: [runsignup.com/crusaderclassic5k](http://runsignup.com/crusaderclassic5k)



**Up & Over**  
Middle School Retreat  
**September 27-29, 2019.**

A team-building and problem solving retreat for middle school students in Grades 6, 7 or 8. It's guaranteed to be a weekend of fun, friendship, & faith at the beautiful wooded Camp Orchard Hill in Dallas, Pa. Participants will spend time outdoors, meet new friends & learn how their God-given gifts can be used when you work with others as a team! Built into the weekend are opportunities to deepen your faith and a number of fun activities and events including weekend mass, a movie, free time, & an outdoor obstacle course!

Students arrive at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, September 27 and depart at noon on Sunday, September 29. Cost for the weekend is \$140. Register online at [Dioceseofscranton.org](http://Dioceseofscranton.org). For information visit [Dioceseofscranton.org](http://Dioceseofscranton.org) or call 570-207-2213, ext. 1155.



**ISLI Leadership Retreat**  
**July 8-11, 2019**

The International Student Leadership Institute (ISLI) is a peer-facilitated faith-based leadership retreat developed at the University of Notre Dame. Over the past 52 years the institute has developed its present scope of operations, which includes exceptional and talented students throughout the United States and Canada. The ISLI retreat is designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in both the leadership and membership roles of task oriented groups. During the retreat, participants take part in small group tasks that allow the student to do the following: Make decisions- Observe the growth of the group; Examine leadership styles; Practice leadership behavior; Brainstorm about group dynamics and leadership; Learn about positive communication; Develop self-motivational skills and learn problem solving; Action planning techniques; Explore and express faith values in the Catholic Tradition

**Complete applications are required by Monday, July 1, 2019.** Apply early as there are a limited number of spaces available for I.S.L.I. If the spaces fill quickly, applications may close before July 1st. For further information, please call Shannon Kowalski at 570-207-2213, ext. 1155. *\*\*\*The ISLI retreat may not be for every student due to the demanding nature of the schedule and necessity to share in small group processes. If ISLI does not seem like a suitable fit, please consider one of our other retreat programs.*

**Do You Want to Know More About the Annulment Process?**

In the Diocese of Scranton, the annulment process is now more "user friendly" than you might expect, and there is no longer a processing fee. Please contact Fr. Michael or Fr. Ryan (570-344-6159) or the Diocesan Tribunal Office (570-207-2246) to begin a conversation. It is possible to get clear answers to the questions you might have. Sometimes, just having the initial conversation without any judgments can assist a person in renewing your connection with the Church and the Church's engagement with you and your spiritual needs.

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