

Dust you
are, and to
dust you
shall return.



GENESIS 3:19

The Catholic Community of St. John Vianney

420 Inman Avenue – Colonia, New Jersey 07067
(732)574-0150 – <https://parish.sjvianney.com>
Rectory Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4pm



Fr. John J. Barbella, Pastor
Rev. John C. Gloss & Msgr. Edward M. O'Neill, Pastor Emeriti
Very Rev. Jay Toborowsky, V.G. in Residence
Fr. Bede Kim, Parochial Vicar
Fr. Robert Gorman, Parochial Vicar
Deacons Joseph Ragucci, Thomas Michnewicz & Vincent Brigande
Ellen DeRosa, Director of Religious Education
Nancy Tannucilli, Principal of St. John Vianney School
Jamie Frame, Director of Sacred Music

Ash WEDNESDAY

Mission Statement

In the spirit of St. John Vianney's zeal and concern for people, we are a community proclaiming the Gospel in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. The community of St. John Vianney strives to utilize the gifts and talents of each parishioner to create a vibrant welcoming parish. Through our liturgies, ministries, and organizations, we encounter Christ and are empowered to bring Him to the world.

Parish Staff

Administrative Assistant	Stephanie Noto
School Office Assistant	Laura Gruenling
Parish/School Bookkeeper	Paula Roibal
Maintenance Supervisor	Poncho Julius

Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday	7am – 8:30am
Saturday	8am - 5pm
Sunday	8am - 10am - 12pm

Holy Days will be announced at the end of mass and in the bulletin.

Sacramental Schedule

Confessions: Saturdays 11am-12pm, 4:15-4:45pm
Anytime in the rectory – call ahead

Baptism: most Sundays at 1:30pm.

Babies should be Baptized as soon as possible. Please call the Parish office to make arrangements. We will be happy to help you schedule your baby's Baptism.

Last Rites/Anointing of the Sick: anyone who is ill and or would like to receive Communion is asked to call the rectory.

Marriage: Couples should call the Parish office as soon as possible to schedule a wedding. Our priests and deacons will help you through the preparation process.

Parish Membership

All new families who live within our boundaries are welcome to the parish. They are requested to register at the rectory.

Parish Gift Shop

Please note that the Parish Gift Shop is now open! The gift shop hours of operation are before and after the 8:00am, 10:00am and 12pm Mass on Sunday's each weekend.

Mass Intentions – 7TH Sunday in Ordinary Time**SATURDAY, February 18, 2023**

8:00 AM 10TH Anniversary of Stephen Jones-Hesketh,
r/o Carol Scheurmann
5:00 PM Maria Magliocco, r/o Josephine & Pietro
Bagnato

SUNDAY, February 19, 2023

8:00 AM Celia Lugo, r/o Egger & Maureen Lugo
10:00 AM Josephine Asian, r/o Lanza Family
12:00 PM For the People of our Parish living/deceased

MONDAY, February 20, 2023 – President's Day

7:00 AM Fr. Al Roca, r/o Fr. John Barbella
8:30 AM Ellie & Joe Dougherty, r/o Marie Hark

TUESDAY, February 21, 2023 – St. Peter Damian

7:00 AM James Carroll III, r/o Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Nisky
8:30 AM Teresa Ciani, r/o Toni & Terry Feeney

WEDNESDAY, February 22, 2023 – Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM Maria Zamarrá, r/o Maria Koscova
8:30 AM Joseph F. Magliozzi, r/o American Irish Assoc.
9:30 AM *School Mass*
12:10 PM Sergio Germinario, r/o LisaJoy Marinello &
Children
4:00 PM Mark Cavallero, r/o Jane Bianco
7:00 PM Martha Kubalak, r/o Waltsak Family

THURSDAY, February 23, 2023 – St. Polycarp

7:00 AM Msgr. Joseph Shenrock
8:30 AM Steven Blaha Jr., r/o In-Laws

FRIDAY, February 24, 2023

7:00 AM Robert Hall, r/o Susan Endler
8:30 AM Kevin McCarthy, r/o Suzanne
3:00 PM *Stations*
7:00 PM *Stations*

SATURDAY, February 25, 2023

8:00 AM Frederick Anthony Bauble
5:00 PM Chat Chattopadhyay, r/o Nancy Lanza

SUNDAY, February 26, 2023

8:00 AM For the People of our Parish living/deceased
10:00 AM Mark Cavallero, r/o Nancy Lanza & Family
12:00 PM Cosmo & Edith Esposito, r/o Jennie Esposito



The Bread and Wine
have been offered
in loving memory of
Teresa Ciani
from Kelly & Kim Feeney.

**Please note that the Rectory office will be
closed on Monday, February 20th for
President's Day.**

The Prayer Corner

"There is a season and a time for every purpose..."

A TIME TO BAPTIZE

TO WED

TO HEAL

Tom Perona, Cody Brown, Dolores DiGangi, Harold Carney, Toni Feeney, Catherine Brennan, Sue Zafian, Arlene Grinnell, Leslie Johnson, Rosa Julius, Rita Weissenburger, Alberta Clark, Therese Clark, Angelo Gallo, Heidi Egan, Carol Kolator, Rita Scarpone, Georgia Egan, Macario and Linda Yap, Michelle Gargiulo, Sonia Stefan, Gerardo Zamarrá, Harrison Chung, Maria Famiglietti, Kevin Pydeski, Connor Feeney, Doug Christie, Donna Sandklev, John & Maryanne Delutis, Joshua & Amelia Ford, Beatrice Schott, Marie Novak, Jo Ann West, Denise Stanislawczyk, Catherine Buettel, Mariola Wawrzyniak, Rose Campanelli, Kyle Brown, Dianne Campolargo, Collin Sciahetano, Dolores Waltsak, Rose Sestito, Giovanni Caccamo, Mark & Victoria, Nancy Genna, Sherry Canavale, Domenic Canavale, Michael Canavale, Rose Currie, Nina Laico, Tommy Birkner, Ronald Harvey, Artie Schapiro, Tina Deliaquila, Robert Feeney, Debi Leiter, Jane Fitzgerald, Wayne Bartlett, Julia Skrya, Mary Charniga, Brenda & Dolores Tourtellot, Mary Jantas, Kathleen Baumann, Giuliana DeAngelias, Dennis Costante, Gene Moore, Joel Leiter, Jerry Hill, Susan Sepedy, Geri Lazarowitz, Aymee Iannaccone, Annie Panaccione, Jean Nych, Gregory Kolaranda, Johanna Esposito, Mary Shegas, Nina Stefanelli, Nikoloz, Clare Weber, Vincent Dellaquila, Joe Vitello, Arlon Roth, Edward O'Brien, June Laub, Maryann Robson, Nick Troiano, Carl Walker, Dan Weiss, Arthur Shipiro, Christine Camping, Catherine Donahue, Marie Negri, Christiano Bianco.

FOR THOSE WHO RECENTLY DIED

Lynn Tumblety

A TIME OF WAR & PEACE

S. Sgt. Keith D. Lee (Air National Guard), Major Brian McCartin (Army), John Bridges (Navy), 2nd Lieutenant Phillip G. Faccione Jr. (Marines), Bryan Alexander Perez (Army), Brandon Haynes (Army), Jared Endler (National Guard), LTJG Liam Keenan (Navy), Mas. Sgt. Michael Primavera (Air Force), John O'Donnell (Marines).

Weekend Readings

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

Weekday readings can be found on the parish website.

February 19, 2023 7TH Sunday in Ordinary Time

"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."

MATTHEW 5:44

Love your enemies, easier said than done. But remember, the foundation of stewardship is prayer. When we are in close communication with God, it opens our heart and it turns our attention away from "me" and moves it towards God and others. It changes my heart and actions, allowing for a little more empathy for "my enemy." When we pray for others, even our enemies, it may soften their hearts as well.

Love Hath No Season

Love is never out of season,
we can always find it where
we connect with one another,
through thoughts and deeds we share.

We may avow it in a letter
or recite sweet words of prose;
we may show it by a loving glance,
or express it with a rose.

We may shout it from the rooftops
or whisper it soft and low,
but no matter how we show it,
it sets another's heart aglow.

— Catherine Janssen Irwin



Special Second Collection 2/18-2/19

This weekend we are having an emergency Second Collection to aid those who have been affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. All donations will go to Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Catholic Relief Services. If you would prefer to donate online, please see the website links below.

<https://cnewa.org/work/emergency-syria/>

<https://support.crs.org/donate/earthquakes>

Your selfless generosity is very much appreciated!

Upcoming Second Collections

February 22 Ash Wednesday
February 25/26 Catholic Spirit

St. Vincent de Paul News

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank everyone for supporting our annual "Souper Bowl Food Drive." We collected more than 500 lbs of food to distribute to friends in need. Your generosity is heartwarming!

2023 MASS BOOK

Please note that the 2023 Mass Book opened on **Wednesday, November 16th**. We are going back to opening the Mass Book for the whole year, instead of quarterly. **Mass offerings will be limited to 3 weekend Masses per person and unlimited daily Masses** – this is to make sure everyone has a fair chance to get a Mass said in memory of a loved one who has passed away, for a date they're looking for.

Bus Trip

Join us for a bus trip to Wind Creek, PA on Monday, February 20th. The bus will be leaving the SJV parking lot at 10am and will return at 6:30pm. Cost is \$45 and get back \$35. For more information and to sign up please call Mary Lou at 732-710-3201.

Weekend Mass Schedule

February 25TH : 5:00pm Fr. Bob

February 26TH : 8:00am Fr. Bede
 10:00am Fr. Jay
 12:00pm Fr. John

PARISH MINISTRIES & CONTACTS

Organization	Contact	Phone/Email
Altar Rosary Society	Jane Bianco	732-382-1512
Altar Servers	Deacon Vinny	vbrigande@sjvs.net
Basketball	Joe Marinello	908-347-9269
Bible Study	Deacon Joe & Rose Ragucci	732-548-3880
Cheerleading	Jennifer Grasso	732-943-2409
Communion/ Homebound	Joanne Streck	732-382-4147
Cub/Boy Scouts	Sandra Franczak	732-754-5613
Cursillo	Maggie Cruz	732-713-7392
Eucharistic Ministers	Rose Ragucci	732-548-3880
Finance Council	Mike Kaplonski	732-735-0184
	Jeanette Wilmanski	jwilmanski@gmail.com
HSA	Jaclyn Falzarano	sjvhsa@sjvs.net
	Lydia Guerrier	
Knights of Columbus	Bob Luban	732-382-6939
Lazarus Ministry	Ann Ruth	732-381-6815
Lectors	Deacon Tom Michnewicz	732-574-1651
Music Ministry	Jamie Frame	908-331-0471
Parish Life Comm.	Egger Lugo	732-801-6705
Pastoral Council	Suzanne MacIntyre	732-283-0731
Pre-Cana	Deacon Tom & Janice Michnewicz	732-574-1651
Pro-Life	Carolyn Glodek	973-349-4626
R.C.I.A.	Deacon Joe Ragucci	732-548-3880
SAC	Jeanette Wilmanski	jwilmanski@gmail.com
Secular Franciscans	Rev. J. Kubiak	732-494-3399
	Anna Zielski	732-325-7779
SJV Seniors	Bob & Mary Nilan	732-574-3427
St. Isidore's Garden	Maureen Jorgensen	732-778-8471
St. Vincent de Paul	Jim Leathem	732-388-5512
Track	Amanda Miller	732-549-2356
Ushers	Ray Morgan	732-815-1037

Saint of the Week: St. Polycarp

St. Polycarp was bishop of Smyrna, a disciple of John the apostle and friends with Ignatius of Antioch. St. Polycarp is well known as one of the Fathers of the early Church. He was martyred at 86 and it's known as the "Acts of

Polycarp", which is also the first reliable account of a Christian Martyr's death. This was in the year 155. May we be inspired by the way he witnessed his faith and seek to be the kind of great leader of faith St. Polycarp was.



FEBRUARY 12, 2023

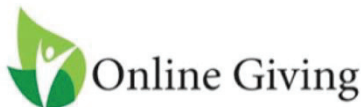
Collection:	\$ 10,250.25
On-line giving:	\$ 4,362.50
	<u>\$ 14,612.75</u>

OFFERTORY:**FEBRUARY 13, 2022**

Collection:	\$ 8,434.00
On-line giving:	\$ 4,700.50
	<u>\$ 13,134.50</u>

OFFERTORY:

*Thank you for giving with a
grateful heart!*



A Secure & Convenient Way to Give to St. John Vianney Church

Donate Now!

No cash or check? No problem! Our parish offers a convenient, safe, and automatic way to contribute to our parish directly from your bank or using a credit card. Online Giving is a web-based application that allows you to start, stop and change your contributions at any time. You will still receive offering envelopes to present during offertory at Mass to indicate "I've given online". Online Giving is very easy to use and requires no special knowledge. If you haven't already signed up, then go to our parish website at "sjvianney.com" and select Online Giving. It's easy and safe!



There are two local food pantries. St. James Food Pantry in Woodbridge and St. Cecelia's Food Pantry in Iselin. Both of these food pantries are a valuable resource in our community. In the future food donations will be shared by both pantries.

The current pantry needs are complete pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter, jelly, soup, tuna, Spam, and personal hygiene products such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, and soap. Thank you for your generosity.



Have You Heard?

**WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A
NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL!**

The Church needs healing, and the world needs Jesus. The Holy Spirit is inviting us to return to the source and summit of our faith—the Eucharist.



eucharisticrevival.org

Lent is Coming!

Join our faith community – and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States – in a transformative Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the gathering are of the Church this weekend. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on global hunger and take action to help our sisters and brothers impacted by this injustice. Visit www.crsricebowl.org to learn more.

FORMED

FORMED is a collection of Catholic videos, movies, Bible studies and other wonderful things. You can access it from our parish website. Just look for FORMED CATHOLIC CONTENT on our website and follow the directions. In no time at all, you will be able to choose from a vast number of wonderful online Catholic materials.

SJV Seniors

The next meeting of the St John Vianney Seniors will be held in the school cafeteria on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 2:30 pm. Entertainment will be provided by Flavian the Mind Reader. Please remember to bring cereal for the St. James Food Pantry. Leave your donation in the library conference room off the narthex in the Church.

LENTEN MISSION

Our Parish Lenten Mission will take place at 7pm on the Tuesday evenings of Lent, according to the schedule below. Every evening will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a Lenten Homily, time for quiet prayer and reflection, and Benediction. Confessions will also be heard each evening – as we will have a priest in the Confessional while the service is happening. A different priest or deacon will preach each evening – giving a variety of perspectives on ways to grow in faith this Lent. Everyone is encouraged to come to a many of these prayerful evenings as possible.

Tuesday, 2/28 at 7pm	Fr. John
Tuesday, 3/7 at 7pm	Fr. Bede
Tuesday, 3/14 at 7pm	Fr. John/Deacon Tom
Tuesday, 3/21 at 7pm	Fr. Bede/Deacon Joe
Tuesday, 3/28 at 7pm	Fr. John/Deacon Vinny

LENT 2023 – Stations of the Cross

Friday, February 24th	3pm & 7pm
Friday, March 3rd	3pm & 7pm
Friday, March 10th	3pm & 7pm
Friday, March 17th	3pm & 7pm
Friday, March 24th	3pm & 7pm
Friday, March 31st	3pm & 7pm
Good Friday – 3pm Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion	
	7pm Stations

2023 Lenten Obligations

1. The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence (see note below with regards to March 17).
3. The obligation of fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. Fasting in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal and two smaller meals which together are not equal to a full meal, so as to experience hunger.
4. The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat.

Note: This year, the Memorial of St. Patrick falls on a Friday. For members of the faithful celebrating this Memorial and who desire it, Bishop Checchio has commuted the penitential obligation on March 17 to the obligation to abstain from meat on another day that same week.

The Pro-Life Corner

If you are a man or woman affected by abortion, please check this website for information that may help you:
<http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org/>

Choices Matter Conference – March 25, 2023

The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Human Life and Dignity presents "Choices Matter – A Critical Life Issues Conference" which will be held at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center in Piscataway on Saturday, March 25, 2023. An Opening Mass will be celebrated by Bishop James Checchio at 9:00 AM and the conference will begin at 10:00 AM and end at 3:30 pm. General registration is \$35 and student registration is \$15. The conference features Eucharistic Adoration, exhibits, and more. The fee includes lunch and handouts. To register visit:
<https://www.diometuchen.org/choicesmatter>. Everyone is welcome! For questions or for more information please email amarshall@diometuchen.org. Seating is limited.

**Unplanned Pregnancy?****Find help at one of these centers:**

Life Choices Resource Center, Metuchen, NJ
Phone: 732-516-911

First Choice Women & Resource Center,
New Brunswick, NJ
Phone: 908-561-0079

Life Choices Inc., Phillipsburg, NJ
Phone: 908-454-2066

Inspire Women's Resource Center, Warren, NJ
Phone: 908-615-9008

Bridge Women's Center, Old Bridge
Phone: 732-588-0999

Or go to optionline.org (Pregnancy help online) to search for a location near you.

SAFE HAVEN INFANT PROTECTION

An unwanted baby?

You can safely and anonymously give it away.

No shame, No blame

Call SAFE HAVEN HOTLINE:

1-877-839-2339

Pastor's Column : February 18 - 19, 2023

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday – the beginning of the Holy Season of Lent. Masses will be offered in our Church that day at 7 and 8:30 AM and at 12 Noon, 4 PM, and 7 PM. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all those Masses.

There are several ways of looking at Lent. Some people see it simply as a time of penance. We give up treats to show that we are sorry for our sins and want to do better in the future. This is a good way of looking at Lent.

Other people look at Lent as a time to do something extra for God. They go to Daily Mass or practice extra charity as a way of going the extra mile for God during this holy season. This is also a good way of looking at Lent.

I personally think that it's best to see Lent as a little of both. It is indeed a time of penance – but also a time for spiritual growth. This means that we make the most of Lent by both repenting of sin and doing something extra for God! There will be many opportunities to do this in our parish this Lent.

Among the best opportunities for spiritual growth will be our Parish Lenten Mission. It will take place on a series of Tuesday evenings beginning at 7 PM. Every Tuesday (except that of Holy Week) a different priest or deacon will expose the Blessed Sacrament, preach a Lenten homily, and give Benediction. Each Tuesday evening, we will have at least one priest hearing Confessions, for those who wish to receive that sacrament. I encourage everyone to attend at least one – if not all – of these evenings. You can see the full schedule, including the priest and deacons who will be conducting each evening, elsewhere in this bulletin.

We will – of course – pray the Stations of the Cross in Church every Friday of Lent. In addition to the usual 7 PM Stations, we will also have them at 3 PM this year. My hope is that having an afternoon time for Stations will make it easier for those who cannot come at night. Praying the Stations of the Cross is a great way to remember what Jesus did for us on Good Friday – and to do something extra for Him! I hope that every family in our parish comes to Stations of the Cross at least once – if not every Friday – this Lent.

Rice Bowls will be distributed as a means of helping us practice charity this Lent. As usual, I encourage every family to take one and fill it up this Lent. A good way to do this is to put spare change in it each day – or to eat a simple meal once a week this Lent and put the money saved in the Rice Bowl for the poor.

Confessions will be heard every Saturday during Lent from 11 AM – 12 Noon and from 4:15 – 4:45 PM. They will also be heard every Tuesday from 7 – 8 PM during the Lenten Mission. Every Catholic who is able to do so should make a good Confession this Lent. Booklets with reflections for every day of Lent are available for you to take in the Church lobby. Additionally, I have acquired about 200 books entitled 'the Cure of Ars.' As many of you know, the Cure of Ars is the 'nickname' of our parish patron saint – Saint John Vianney. I encourage any adult or older teen who wants to learn more about this holy man to take and read one of these books.

For those who want to go a bit deeper with this book, I will lead a book study on it. We will offer two times: Fridays March 17th, 24th, and 31st at 3:30 PM (right after the 3 PM Stations of the Cross) or Thursdays March 16th, 23rd, and 30th at 7 PM. I hope some of you will join me for this book study – as I am sure that learning more about St. John Vianney will inspire you and build up your faith. While it is not necessary to register for the book study, it might be helpful if those intending to participate call Stephanie at the parish office and let her know.

My hope is that everyone will take advantage of these opportunities to repent of our sins and do something extra for God this Lent. Indeed, let's all resolve to make this the best Lent of our lives – so that we can celebrate Jesus' resurrection this Easter with our faith renewed and reenergized!!

I hope you all enjoyed Superbowl Sunday as much as I did. It was a great evening with my mother, some family, some friends, and a lot of good food at the my sister's home. Regardless of the game, it is always good to be with family and friends.

Please remember to pray a Hail Mary for me today and every day – and have a great week.

Fr. John



St. John Vianney School News

732-388-1662 <https://school.sjvianney.com/>

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is open! Continue to email us at sjvhsa@sjvs.net and someone will respond to your email within 24-48 hours. Don't forget to visit our school website and follow us on Facebook!

SJV School Tricky Tray Disney Style!

Friday, March 24th

Please join us for a night of fun!

Raffle Baskets, 50/50, and more!

Ticket forms can be found on the school website.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2023-2024 TUITION ASSISTANCE

ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>.

Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than March 31, 2023. Applications are available in English and Spanish. Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.

ATTN 2ND & 5TH GRADE CATHOLIC CUBS

Scout Sunday has passed but you can still earn the scout religious medal for your grade level/rank before aging out. (Light of Christ - Wolves/Second Grade and Parvuli Dei - AOL/Fifth Grade). Purchase the workbooks for your grade at nccsshop.org and return the completed workbooks to Ed Barret at a Cub Scout meeting, no later than Wednesday May 31 with \$12 for the medal purchase.

Music Ministry News

Adult Choir

Our parish adult choir enhances our liturgies each Sunday from September through mid-June. The choir also sings for many special occasions during the year, such as: Christmas Eve Mass, Holy Week, Confirmation, and our "Mass of Remembrance" in November!! We are always looking for new people to join with our very dedicated group!! We welcome all adults (And high school students) to be part of our choir! The adult choir sings at the 10:00 am mass. We practice each Wednesday from 7:30 to 9:00 Pm in the church. **Our next Rehearsal will be on Wednesday February 15th and we will sing again on Sunday February 26th at the 10:00 am mass.**

Children's Choir

Our parish children's choir is made of students from our parish from grades two and up!! The children in the group love coming together to sing for Sunday liturgies as well as special events during the year. The choir sings for our parish Christmas Pageant and 4:00 pm mass on Christmas Eve, as well as the 9:00 am mass on Easter Sunday!! We practice on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:00 pm in the church. We sing twice a month at the 10:00 am mass. **Our next rehearsal will be on Tuesday February 28th and we sing again on Sunday March 5th at the 10:00 am mass.**

Folk Group

Our Parish Folk Group enhances the 12:00 noon liturgy each week. The Folk Group is under the direction of Ms. Jennie Esposito. Rehearsals are held weekly at 11:30 am in the conference room adjacent to the church gathering area. Jennie is always looking for more singers as well as instrumentalists to join with the Folk Group!

You can contact me at jframeiii@yahoo.com with any questions,

Jamie Frame, Dir. Of Music/Organist

PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND

Fr. Joseph Kubiak is running a Pilgrimage to Poland for **first time travelers** to Poland from July 16 – July 25, 2023. Father Joseph is also running a Pilgrimage to travelers **who have been** to Poland from July 30 – August 8, 2023. For further information on both of these trips, please contact Fr. Joseph at 732-494-3399 ext. 19. Please feel free to leave a message if he does not answer right away.

2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal Renewed and Sent on Mission by the Eucharist

By now you have received a letter from Bishop Checchio inviting your participation in the 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The diocesan ministries supported by the Appeal directly impact many of the parishioners here in St. John Vianney Parish. Your gift provides formation opportunities for our catechists, youth and young adults. In the coming days, you will be receiving a letter from our pastor, Fr. John, encouraging your participation. If you have yet to make your gift, please prayerfully consider doing so today by either returning your pledge card in the mail, or going to the secure website: <https://diometuchen.org/BAA>.

Update from the Religious Education Program

Sacrament Dates

St. John Vianney Parish will celebrate Confirmation on Thursday, April 27, 2023 and First Communion on Saturday May 6th and Sunday May 7th.

Looking for Volunteers for the 2023 – 2024 year

Some of the classes this year have more children than ideal, so if we can round up some additional catechists for next year, we can hopefully reduce the number of students in each class. With the fingerprinting, background check and classes required to volunteer to be around children, the sooner volunteers step forward, the better!

Before I comment on the role of volunteers in our religious education program, I'll comment on the acronym just about everyone uses -CCD. Ever wonder what the letters CCD stand for? CCD is the acronym for Confraternity of Christian Doctrine where confraternity refers to an association of the faithful. CCD dates back to the Council of Trent (1545 – 1563). The confraternity provided religious education to both children and adults who lacked formal religious education. In the early twentieth century Pope St. Pius X wrote an encyclical in which he stated that the express purpose of CCD was for religion classes for the young people who frequent the public schools. And that is pretty much what the average Catholic today knows about CCD – it is religion classes for public school kids.

What goes on in CCD classes at St. Johns?

- We promote knowledge of the Catholic faith. There is a lot of "stuff" Catholics need to know! Remember, we cannot hope to live it if we do not know it! And, if we are serious about wanting to live as Catholics, we'll ask questions. We'll want to know.
- We promote meaningful participation in the Mass and other Sacraments. The Eucharist defines who we are. Showing up at Mass is a start. But we are looking for active participation.
- We present and discuss the teachings of the Church on various moral issues. What does the Church teach about abortion? About marriage? About any number of moral issues we see in the news? Our moral formation cannot be based on what we see in the secular media.
- We teach how to pray. Our teacher is the Master. "Lord, teach us to pray...."
- We promote witnessing to Jesus Christ wherever we are. But we can't be sent out to be a witness unless we have first been prepared. We are sent out on mission at the end of every Mass. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. We have an obligation to do just that.

Sound impossible? It would be if we were going about this on our own. We're not. This is not our work. It is God's work. With God's grace, His work will be done.

Contacting Me

The best way to reach me is by email at ederosa@sjvs.net. If you would like to speak with me, please send an email with your phone number. I will call in the evening after work.

Have a blessed week!
Ellen DeRosa

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time | Matthew 5:38-48

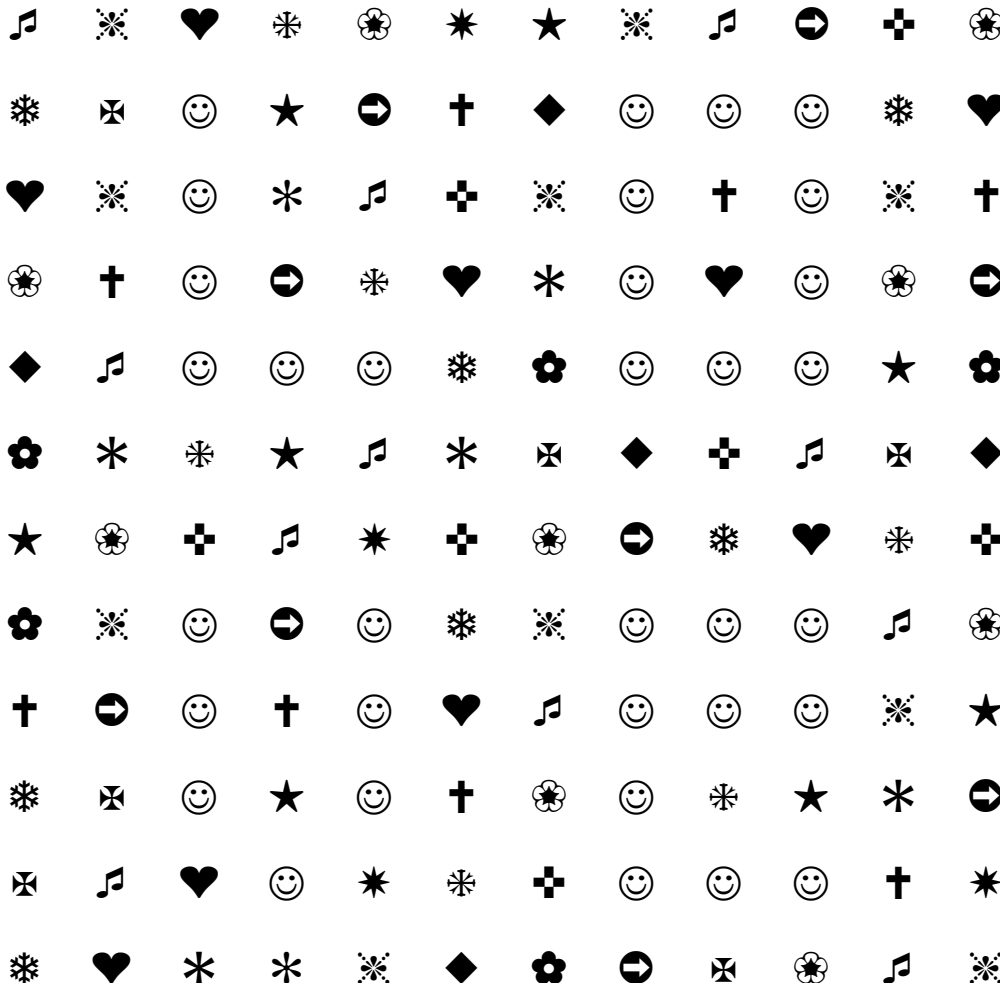
As Jesus continues His Sermon on the Mount, He tells us to love and pray for everyone and be forgiving to those who hurt us.

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Find the word hidden
among all the symbols.

HINT: Color the
smiley faces 😊

Be like God our Father
who always loves and
forgives His people.



ANSWER: LOVE

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