ST. JOHN NEUMANN & ST. ISAAC JOGUES PARISH

APRIL 16TH, 2023 Second Sunday of Easter

VERY REV. PHILLIP C. PFLEGER (Founding Pastor)
REV. MICHAEL G. DUNN (Parochial Vicar)
REV. VICENTE MAGDARAOG (Parochial Vicar)
REV. MARTIN PADOVANI (Weekend Assistant)

DEACON JOSEPH BARBARA
DEACON DAVID O'CONNOR
DEACON JOSEPH R. DEROSA

"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

— JOHN 20:29

For BOTH St. John Neumann & St. Isaac Jogues Churches:
Children's Faith Formation & Sacramental Prep (K-8th Grade)

Faith Formation Office Phone: 856-235-6555
Sr. Mary Kathleen Kelley, SSJ - Director (856-235-1330 Ext. 111)
Email: SrMaryKay@stisaacjogues.org
Danielle Meosky - Coordinator (856-235-1330 Ext. 107)
Email: Danielle.Meosky@sjnmtl.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society
HELP-LINE: 856-797-7352

Jesus, Bread of Life Catholic Cemetery
The Diocesan Cemetery that serves this parish is
JESUS, BREAD OF LIFE CATHOLIC CEMETERY
3055 Fostertown Road, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
Contact Deacon David O'Connor at 856-317-6400

ST. JOHN NEUMANN CHURCH

ST. JOHN NEUMANN CHURCH & PARISH OFFICE

560 Walton Avenue
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
Parish offices are toward rear of church parking lot, attached to main church building.

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday – Friday | 9:30AM – 3:00PM

PHONE: 856-235-1330
FAX: 856-235-9632
WEBSITE: www.sjnmtl.org

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR:
MICHAEL ROCCO (856-235-1330 ext. 106)

BUSINESS MANAGER:
LISA BURT (856-235-1330 ext. 105)

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Sacraments at St. John Neumann Church

BAPTISM:
Denise Rudolph (856-235-1330 ext. 104)
Email: drudolph@sjnmtl.org

MARRIAGE:
Olivia Huslin (856-235-1330 ext. 101)
Email: Olivia.Huslin@sjnmtl.org
Arrangements must be made at least 1 year in advance.
At least one person should be a registered member of the parish.

RECONCILIATION:
Saturdays | 2:30PM – 3:30PM | Parish Hall

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:
Please call the office as soon as possible & we will contact a priest for you.
In case of an emergency, call 856-313-6467

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For BOTH St. John Neumann & St. Isaac Jogues Churches:
Children's Faith Formation & Sacramental Prep (K-8th Grade)

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE PHONE: 856-235-6555

Sr. Mary Kathleen Kelley, SSJ - Director (856-235-1330 ext. 111)
Email: SrMaryKay@stisaacjogues.org

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Contact Deacon David O'Connor at 856-317-6400

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
HELP-LINE: 856-797-7352

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

ALL DAILY MASSES MONDAY - FRIDAY ARE CELEBRATED AT 9:00AM AT ST. JOHN NEUMANN CHURCH ONLY

SATURDAY - April 15
4:00PM **MARY MARKUS** by The Cerwonka Family
CHARLES CESARE, SR. by His Daughter, Rose

SUNDAY - April 16 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
8:00AM **JULIUS TRINDADE**
IN MEMORY OF OUR 51ST WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
by His Wife
JUAN MOISES & ELVIA DE LUNA by Loving Children
10:00AM **SUNDAY SCAPPATICCI** by The Tuscano Family
JORGE RODRIGUEZ by Lydia & Jose Torres
JOHN S. MOLETTERI
by Mr. & Mrs. Gary Derhagopian

MONDAY - April 17
9:00AM **ADORACION GRACIA**
by Loving Daughters Lynette, Anne & Julie
MARK STEINMANN by Patricia Rosser & Carol Walker

TUESDAY - April 18
9:00AM **ROSE PUBLICK** by Her Niece
LORENZO & ELIZABETH BALDINO
by The White Family

WEDNESDAY - April 19
9:00AM **DOLORES DEGREGORIO** by Louis & Camille Delmas

THURSDAY - April 20
9:00AM **VINCENZO NERI** by His Daughter

FRIDAY - April 21
9:00AM **FR. MICHAEL DUNN** *BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS*
by Olivia & Vidya

SATURDAY - April 22
4:00PM **CHRISTIAN CALIVA** *BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS*
by His Loving Sister
STEPHEN MARKUS by The Cerwonka Family
LUCIANA & RENATO REYES
40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
by Fr. Vicente Magdaraog

SUNDAY - April 23
8:00AM **ASSUNTA MANNELLO** by Alberta & Anna Mannello
LORRAINE WELDON by Her Family
JEFFREY PIGNATARO by Pat & Jim Delany
10:00AM **SHERRY CARNATION** by Anthony & Josephine Gigi
HAINES FORBES by His Sister, Betty Forbes
GERALD YEAGER by The McCartney Family

PRAYER INTENTIONS

FOR OUR SICK

Christine Anastasia, Christine Armstrong, Fr. Asfaw, Mary Bannan, Marion Baron, James Barron, Aditya "Bobby" Basram, Angelica & Dawn Brigante, Dorothy "Dottie" Brigante, Joseph Broccoli, Charlotte Bryson, Elaine C., Vincent Cesare, Rita Christopher, Marirose Cianfero-Stewart, Candice Colon, Convanese Family, Gaspare G. Curiale, Loretta D., Nora Dalena, Dominick D'Angelo, Richie DeBella, Nina DeMenna, Val DeSimone, Jackie DiLouie, Louis DiPatrizio, Kayla DiSibio, Paul Drury, Charlie Elia Family, Tim Feeney, Carol Galbraith, Sherry Giles, Helen & John Glowacki, Grande-Butera Family, Glenn Greiner, Raul Guesmundo, Nancy Gunderson, James Harney, Colleen Heon, Patricia Himmelsback, Carmel Hine, Sean Matthew Jennings, Johnathan Kaplan, Patricia Ann Kearney, Colleen Kirkwood, Celeste Kleaver, Roman Kuehner, Nina Marie Lamberti, Carmel Leonard, Maureen Leonard, Victor Libetti, Debbie Liscotti, Marci LoMonaco, Alex Magenheimer, Debra Sue Marshall, Gerald Matricardi, Marie Mauqeri, McCornacky Family, Paul McGee, Mary McLaughlin, Eugene Meyer, Heather L. Monco, Bonnie Nice, Timmy O'Neill, Rocco Palmieri, Regina Parker, Frank Pellegrini, Patricia Petrella, Fr. Phillip Pfleger, Marlena Pollaci, Robert Popilcok, Alex Punchello, Joan Ramagano, Robert Reeder, Patrick Reithmeier, Maureen Rich, Linda Riess, Joel Rivera, Charles Robinson, Lauren Robinson, Michael Rocco, Vincent Rodgers, Tania Rossi, Frank Rubino, Kyle Rudolph, Carol Samsanavicius, Ronald Sanna, Nicholas Saporito, Ron Savar, Maria Schell, Harrison Senda, Marie E. Serrano, Evette Silao, Lori Slyman, Diane Smith, Gina Strohm, Abbie Stross, Evelyn Tan, Frank Tantillo, Paul Terrus, Christopher Trindade, Ann Tyrell, Adele & Cara Ursino, Greg VanSciver, James Vega, Johanna Venturi, Kathleen Verdecchia, Kathleen Volz, Patrice Walls, Mary Wisnewski, Augie & Ann Zumpetta

FOR OUR MEMBERS IN THE MILITARY

PV2 Salvatore Alfonsi, US Army
Sgt Raymond Backus, US Marine Corps
SPC Julia Backus, US Army
COL Eric Baus, US Army
MAJ Michael Franzi, US Army
PO2 Brian F. Hamilton, US Navy
SSG Samuel Mendez, US Army
SSG David Mendez, US Army
CPT Matthew Piotrowicz, US Marine Corps
SPC Peter Rohloff, US Army National Guard
CPT Stephen Scuderi, US Army
Capt Alexander Sutherland, US Air Force
LCpl Christian Torres, US Marine Corps
Cpl Andrew Vail, US Marine Corps

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Rita Pagliei

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Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Weekly Collection

First Collection 4/2/2023	$7,576.67
Diocesan Assessment	$1,284.00
Easter Collection 4/9/2023	$14,304.00
Good Friday	$964.00

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Please consider remembering the Parish of St. John Neumann & St. Isaac Jogues when writing or changing your will.

Please DO NOT tape the outside of the envelope, or staple or paperclip your checks. Thank you!

Parish Giving

Thank you for your support of our parish family!
For online giving, please visit:
https://sjnmtl.org/parish-giving

ANNUAL CATHOLIC Appeal 2023

St. John Neumann Church
2023 Annual Catholic Appeal Weekly Summary as of April 10, 2023

Goal: $70,000.00
Pledged: $25,905.00 (37% of Goal)
Paid: $24,085.00 (34% of Goal)
Total Donors: 135
Total Gifts: 137
Average Gift: $189.09

May God's blessings be upon
Lorenzo Anthony Valerio
& his family on his Baptism!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

ALL DAILY MASSES MONDAY - FRIDAY ARE CELEBRATED AT 9AM AT ST. JOHN NEUMANN CHURCH ONLY

04/15 SAT **9:00AM** Pro-Life Mass & Rosary
2:30PM Confessions **4:00PM** Mass

04/16 SUN ***Divine Mercy Sunday***
8:00AM Mass **10:00AM** Mass
11:30AM Baptism
2:00PM Rosary, Adoration & Benediction
3:00PM Divine Mercy Chaplet & Blessing of D.M. Images
Mass will immediately follow.

04/17 MON **9:00AM** Mass

04/18 TUE **9:00AM** Mass

04/19 WED **9:00AM** Mass

04/20 THU **9:00AM** Mass
7:00PM Mass & Adoration

04/21 FRI **9:00AM** Mass

04/22 SAT **2:30PM** Confessions **4:00PM** Mass

04/23 SUN **8:00AM** Mass **10:00AM** Mass

PARISH LIFE AT ST. JOHN'S

Mass, Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction

THIS THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH
7:00PM CELEBRANT: FR. DUNN
~ Every third Thursday ~

SAVE THE DATE!
K of C COUNCIL #7755
+ AMERICAN RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE
Monday, May 8
10:00AM — 3:00PM
Virtua Moorestown
Details TBA

"Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to Divine Mercy." — **Jesus to St. Faustina Kowalska, 1931**

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!
JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!
JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!

Fostering vocations to the priesthood and religious life is vital to the life of the Catholic Church. Our Lady of Fatima Council #7755 is asking for your support to do just that. As a family of Faith, we will all be working together to cultivate these necessary vocations — especially to the priesthood — through prayer, sacrifice, and almsgiving. Posters, brochures outlining the program, and prayer cards to encourage prayer for vocations will all be made available to parishioners in St. John's vestibule. Our priests will preach on vocations, sharing their own personal experience in preparation for ordination, as well as the encouragement they received from family, and from the Knights of Columbus. The Knights will be available after all Masses next Saturday, April 29th and Sunday April 30th to accept your donations in support of seminarians. But it will not end there. Council #7755 is working to petition the Director of Vocations for Trenton Diocese to name a seminarian to receive our support directly. His information will be announced in an upcoming bulletin and on the Council's website: **www.kofc7755.org** When not at seminary, he will be invited to attend Masses and Council meetings here at St. John Neumann, to speak to others discerning their vocation, and be available to meet with parishioners throughout the year.

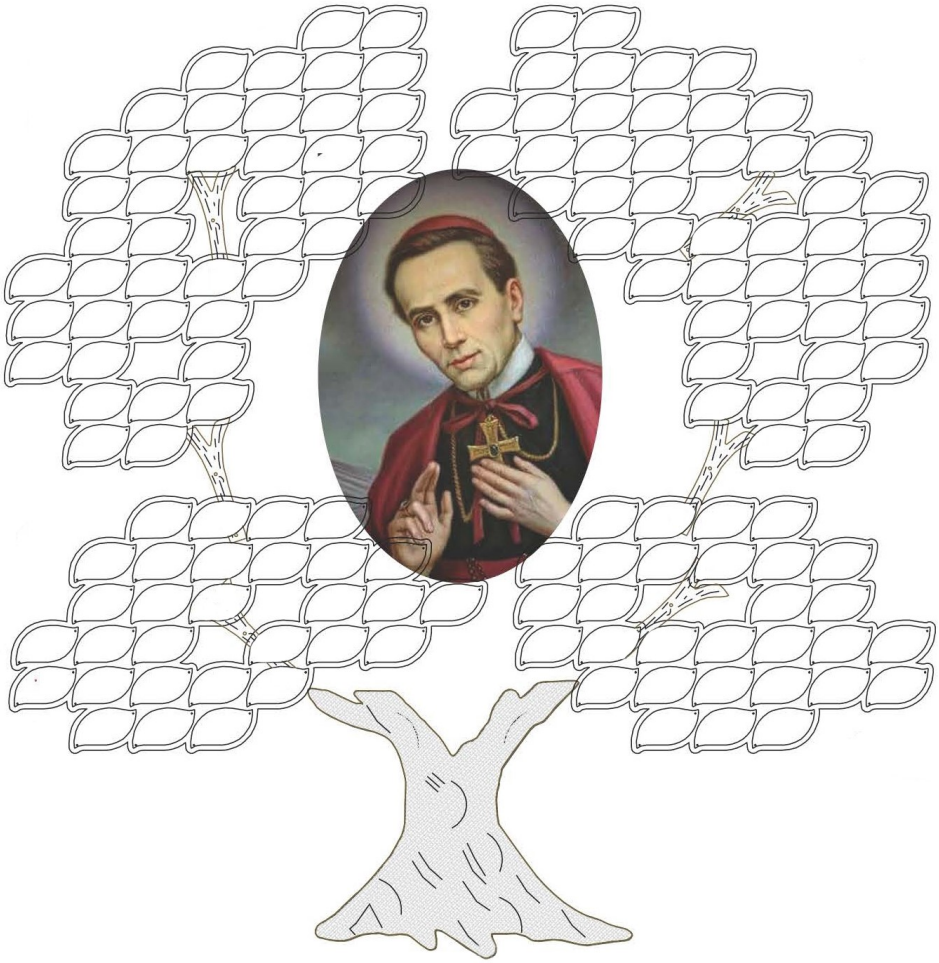
Your continued prayers and generosity make a difference. ***What a blessing it would be to see that our spiritual and financial support resulted in the ordination of a priest, and perhaps an overall increase in vocations to priesthood, religious life and Diaconate!***

~ To Our Parishioners at St. John Neumann Church ~

As we continue forward on our church renovation journey, we would like to offer parishioners the opportunity to honor or memorialize a loved one, living or deceased. With a donation of $1,000 or more, a dedicated plate will be engraved with your intention(s). Engraved "leaves" will make up a large, permanent memorial "tree" to be displayed within our church building. All donations will go toward the purchase of new Liturgical Appointments for the remodeled church. Any parishioner with an interest in participating should place their donation in an envelope marked **"Renovation Donation"** and deposit in the collection basket at any Mass.

May the Good Lord bless you for your continued charity, and for helping us to breathe new life into our beloved St. John Neumann Church!

~ Fr. Pfleger, Fr. Dunn & Fr. Vic



Early concept illustration for parishioner intentions "tree" adorned with engraved "leaves".

St. John Neumann, pray for us!
St. Joseph the Worker, pray for us!

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THE CHURCH OF ST. ISAAC JOGUES

ST. ISAAC JOGUES
CHURCH & PARISH OFFICE
349 Evesboro-Medford Road
Marlton, NJ 08053
Parish office is located at the church address, in Room #2 of the Parish Hall Family Center.

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday – Thursday | 9:30AM – 3:00PM

PHONE: 856-797-0999
FAX: 856-797-0463
WEBSITE: www.saintisaacjogues.org

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:
CHRISTINE ROCCO (856-797-0999 ext. 103)
ChristineRocco@stisaacjogues.org

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Sacraments at The Church of St. Isaac Jogues

BAPTISM:
Kathleen McNellis (856-797-0999 ext. 101)
Email: KathleenMcNellis@stisaacjogues.org

MARRIAGE:
Kathleen McNellis (856-797-0999 ext. 101)
Email: KathleenMcNellis@stisaacjogues.org
Arrangements must be made at least 1 year in advance.
At least one person should be a registered member of the parish.

RECONCILIATION:
Saturdays | 3:30PM – 4:30PM | Reconciliation Room

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:
Please call the office as soon as possible & we will contact a priest for you.
In case of an emergency, call 609-206-5163

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For BOTH St. John Neumann & St. Isaac Jogues Churches:
Children's Faith Formation & Sacramental Prep (K-8th Grade)

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE PHONE: 856-235-6555

Sr. Mary Kathleen Kelley, SSJ - Director (856-235-1330 ext. 111)
Email: SrMaryKay@stisaacjogues.org

Danielle Meosky - Coordinator (856-235-1330 ext. 107)
Email: Danielle.Meosky@sjnmtl.org

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Music Ministry

Gregory Safko - Director of Music
Email: music@stisaacjogues.org

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The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

HELP-LINE: 856-797-7352

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

ALL DAILY MASSES MONDAY - FRIDAY ARE CELEBRATED AT 9:00AM AT ST. JOHN NEUMANN CHURCH ONLY

SATURDAY - April 15
5:00PM **LARAINE WIESMANN** by Dave & Dottie Thompson
MR. & MRS. CASTAGNOLA
by The Castagnola & Eick Family

SUNDAY - April 16 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
9:00AM **THOMAS CORTELLESSA** by The Lorang Family
EDWIN SILBERNICK by Heather Lane
11:00AM **THE OCAMPO-PINEDA FAMILIES** by Drs. Pineda

MONDAY - April 17
9:00AM **MICHAEL SMITHWICK** *HEALING*
by Tim & Kristin McGeeney

TUESDAY - April 18
9:00AM **MARK BLUMBERG** by Nancy Jamanow

WEDNESDAY - April 19
9:00AM **JAMES MILLER** by Nancy Jamanow

THURSDAY - April 20
9:00AM **MICHAEL ROCCO** *HEALING*
by Jack & Marlene Mikusa

FRIDAY - April 21
9:00AM **PADDY KENNEDY** by Jack & Marlene Mikusa

SATURDAY - April 22
5:00PM **SR. JANE FRANCES** by Annamarie Marzulli
JOAN DIFIORE by Theresa Sparacio

SUNDAY - April 23
9:00AM **LARAINE WIESEMANN** by Jerry & Jean Campenella
WARREN COX by The Sacchetti Family
11:00AM **CAROL GIANNINI** by Matt & Elaine Curreri & Fam.
MICKEY KILRAIN by Mary Buchanan

Please submit all bulletin-related announcements or prayer list changes to Olivia.Huslin@sjnmtl.org by MONDAY of each week AT THE LATEST for the coming week's Sunday bulletin.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

FOR OUR SICK

Phyllis Ambrosio, John Amici, Joseph Amici, Diane B., Bob Bartek, Dawn Bay, Alane Brendley, Richard Brendley, Sr., Linda Brunges, Caren Carpenter, John Carr, Sandy Casnet, Debbie Collier, Scott Collier, Justin DaTorre, Richie DeBella, Vincent Degliomini, Rosemarie DeRosa, Thomas DeSimone, Eileen Dianora, Julio Difiore, Jane DiGiovanni, Robin DiPietro, Sloane Donnelly, Judy Dutton, Gaetana Fallo, Sr. Mary Fieo, Betty Forbes, Kevin Fox, Joseph Gallagher, Milloe Gaskins, Helen Gidel, Cindy Ginhardt, Nick Grasso, Michael Hauger, Jessica Henrich, Eugene Herman, Charlene Hummel, Jean Immar, Annette Isaia-Flynn, Anthony Isaia, Ryan Jastrzembski, Nicholas J. Juele, Frances Louise Kelly, Catherine Kellymayer, Mickey Kilrain, Lorna King, Lawrence Klopfle, Mario Kundrat, Henry Kwasniewski, Eileen Patricia Kyler, Glenn Lockwood, Peggy Luciani, William Maldonado, Jose Marinella, Jean Mazur, Manuel DeLima Mendes, Neyde Santana Mendes, Mary Mento, Maryann Mollica, Frank Moon, Zak Neilson, Patricia O'Malley, Stephanie Palladino, Ann Marie Palladino, Fr. Phillip Pfleger, Joseph Pfleger, Rica Pineda, Robert Popilcok, Marie Redmer, Michael Rocco, Ruddy Rodriguez, Karen Rollo, Nicholas Joseph Salamone III, Donna Salerno, Rosa Maria Santos, Michael Sarne, George, Wendy, Dan & Sara Schetter, Mary Schneider, Ethan Schwartz, Ken Scupp, Tyler Seaman, Harrison Senda, Louise Siciliano, Lorraine Slymann, Michael Smithwick, Gerald Soboleski, Florence Stiglich, Len Suhuchman, Maryann Urban, James Vega, Ethan Wang, Mary Wisnewski, John Yanushka, Annamarie Zamichieli, Ida Zoldak, Elizabeth Zurcher

FOR OUR MEMBERS IN THE MILITARY

SSgt Elyse Allen, US Air Force
LCpl Patrick J. Bayrne, US Marine Corps
1LT TJ Burdette, US Marine Corps
SPC Sean E. Byrne, US Army
PVT Matthew Cameron, US Marine Corps - Parris Island
PO1 Paul Colflesh, US Navy - Coronado, CA
A1C Jeffrey G. Dinich, US Air Force
A1C Peter Dinich, US Air Force
PVT John E. Loeber III, US Marine Corps
SSG Stephen MacCrory, US Army
CMDR Joseph L. McGettigan, US Navy - Commanding Officer, USS Higgins (DDG76)
CPL Brett Koerner, US Marine Corps
CW2 Ryan O'Rourke, US Marine Corps
SrA Dominic Prate, US Air Force
Sgt Leland Eric Renoff, US Marine Corps
Capt Jason Rosenthal, US Marine Corps
PO1 Kurt Scheifele, US Navy

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you or someone you know would like to assist with funeral intake and other arrangements and join our Bereavement Ministry at the Church of St. Isaac Jogues, please contact:
CHRISTINE FRASETTO (609-504-4798)

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

First Collection 4/02/2023	$12,176.00
Diocesan Assessment	$1,944.00
First Collection 4/09/2023	$17,789.00
Debt Reduction	$2,320.00
Good Friday (Holy Land)	$1,593.00
Easter Flowers	$305.00

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

While we sincerely appreciate your one lump sum checks, it has come time for our employees not to be able to divide up your monies into individual accounts like you would like us to do with your ONE check.

Due to downsizing of staff and volunteers since the pandemic, we are unable to divide up your ONE contribution check.

Please know that your check is very important to us, and at the end of the month, all monies do go towards what is needed for the whole parish.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Parish Giving

Thank you for your support of our parish family!
For online giving, please visit:
https://stisaacjogues.org/parish-giving

2023 Annual Catholic Appeal

Church of St. Isaac Jogues
2023 Annual Catholic Appeal
Weekly Summary as of April 10, 2023

Goal: $50,000.00
Pledged: $12,653.00 (25% of Goal)
Paid: $9,656.06 (19% of Goal)
Total Donors: 94
Total Gifts: 95
Average Gift: $133.19

WEEKLY CALENDAR

ALL DAILY MASSES MONDAY - FRIDAY ARE CELEBRATED AT 9AM AT ST. JOHN NEUMANN CHURCH ONLY

04/15 SAT **3:30PM** Confessions **5:00PM** Mass
Special Needs Drive - After All Masses

04/16 SUN ***Divine Mercy Sunday***
9:00AM Mass **11:00AM** Mass
12:30PM Baptisms
2:00PM Divine Mercy Adoration, Prayers & Mass **@ SJN ONLY**

04/17 MON **9:00AM** Mass @ SJN
10:00AM Food Pantry
4:30PM Faith Formation - All Rooms
6:30PM Faith Formation - Rms #7-9
6:30PM Boy Scouts - Hall
7:00PM St. Vincent de Paul - Rm #6

04/18 TUE **9:00AM** Mass @ SJN
4:30PM Faith Formation - All Rooms
6:30PM Faith Formation - Rms #7-9

04/19 WED **9:00AM** Mass @ SJN
10:00AM Food Pantry

04/20 THU **9:00AM** Mass @ SJN

04/21 FRI **9:00AM** Mass @ SJN
9:00AM Bishop Eustace - Church
11:00AM Bishop Eustace Ring Mass

04/22 SAT **9:00AM** Confirmation Retreat - Hall & All Rooms
3:30PM Confessions **5:00PM** Mass
K of C Special Needs Drive - After All Masses

04/23 SUN ***Fellowship Sunday & Ministry Fair***
9:00AM Mass **11:00AM** Mass
10:15AM Faith Formation - All Rooms

"The greatest attribute of God is love and mercy. It unites the creature with the Creator."
— ST. MARY FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

PARISH LIFE AT ST. ISAAC'S

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY & MINISTRY FAIR
AFTER ALL MASSES ON APRIL 23

Please join us in the Parish Hall for coffee, donuts, & fellowship with your parish community!

If you've been considering joining a Ministry at SIJ, now is the time to stop in & learn more!

"It is impossible to save one's soul without devotion to Mary and without her protection."
- ST. ANSELM, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
FEAST DAY: April 21

SAVE THE DATE!

K of C COUNCIL #12229
+ AMERICAN RED CROSS

BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, May 16
2:00PM — 7:00PM
St. Isaac's Parish Hall

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment!

SPONSOR CODE:
stisaacmarlton

DONATE BLOOD

ST. ISAAC JOGUES
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT!

Fr. Pfleger invites all SIJ volunteers, dates and mates to an evening of food and wine, just like we did before COVID! This is a celebration thanking you for all the work, time and energy you so generously donate to the friends and families of St. Isaac Jogues parish community.

DATE Saturday, May 20th, 2023

TIME Following 5:00pm Mass

PLACE Holy Family Hall

RSVP NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

Contact: Janet Musielski (856-810-8890)
ms.jcm@comcast.net

SIJ VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

Name _____

Name of Ministry _____

Number Attending _____

FROM SR. MARY KAY

Happy Easter!

Thomas in today's gospel is very much like all of us. He cannot wrap his head around what the other disciples are telling him about their encounter with the Risen Jesus, and he is honest enough to admit his skepticism. It's been a long week for the disciples: first Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, then the rest of the week spirals out of control as Jesus is arrested, beaten and put to death. They are very afraid, and lock themselves away in a room together. But Jesus comes to them in their grief and fear, and offers them the gift of peace. "Peace be with you." He says to them. But Thomas is not with them, and so, when they tell him about the encounter, he cannot simply believe their story; he wants to see and touch Jesus himself. So what does Jesus do? He comes back when Thomas is present with the group, and Jesus invites him to touch the Wounds so that Thomas might truly believe in Him. We all have times in our lives when we find it difficult to believe that Jesus is present with us. Our minds play tricks on us and we find ourselves lost in our own grief and fear. Like Thomas, we want signs and wonders to prove Jesus is present. What does Jesus do? He comes to us, offers us peace, and invites us to believe that he is truly with us right here, right now. We just need to be present — in this moment, right now, where we are, and like Thomas, we need to be open to seeing God at work in our lives. It can be in the kindness of a friend or a stranger; it can be in witnessing someone do something for someone else; it can be in a time of prayer. The possibilities are endless because our God is always present and anything is possible. Let us pray for one another this week, that we will be open to the possibility of God's Presence and work in our lives. Then, we just might catch a glimpse of the Risen Jesus moving in our lives and offering us the gift of peace. ***smk***