

# Saint John Neumann Catholic Church

8451 Idlewild Road • Charlotte, NC 28227  
704.536.6520 • www.4sjnc.org

*The welcoming community of St. John Neumann encourages and enables parishioners to use their gifts in service to others as Jesus has taught us.*

## PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor: Rev. Thomas J. Meehan, OSA  
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Arthur D. Johnson, OSA  
Permanent Deacon: Rev. Mr. John Parrish  
Director of Faith Formation: Connie Milligan  
Faith Formation Secretary: Sondra Skibbe  
Faith Formation Program Assistant: Benita Bryson  
Confirmation Coordinator: Donna Tarney  
Director of RCIA: Donna Rayle  
704.545.8916  
Youth Minister & Music Associate: Marsha McIver  
Special Needs Ministry: Sue Rebich  
704.545.0242  
Director of Music and Liturgy: R. Lance Burnette  
Open Arms Preschool Director: Nancy Chiarelli  
Business Manager: Earl Bell  
Scheduling Coordinator: Benita Bryson  
Parish Secretary: Mary Beall  
Pastoral Council Chairperson: Eric Wagner  
Finance Council Chairperson: Joe Fiato  
Bereavement Ministry Director: Vacant

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.-Fri. 9am—Noon, 1pm—4pm

## FAITH FORMATION OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.-Thurs. 9am—3pm

## PHONE NUMBERS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Parish Office: 704.536.6520  
Fax: 704.536.3147  
Faith Formation Office: 704.535.4197  
E-mail Address: sjncc@bellsouth.net  
Web site: www.4sjnc.org

## BULLETIN DEADLINE

Monday 4pm of previous week.

All bulletin items must be approved by the Pastor.

## MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil: Saturday 5:30pm  
Sunday 7:30am, 10am, 12 Noon, 6pm

## HOLY DAYS

Vigil: 7pm; Holy Day: 9:15am, 7pm

## DAILY MASSES

Mon.-Fri. 9:15am (Rosary following)  
Sat. 9:15am

## CONFESSIONS

Sat. 4pm-5pm and by appointment (Call Parish Office)

## BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL

10am - 6pm

## CO-OP BABYSITTING AVAILABLE

Sunday during 10am Mass  
(for ages infant to 2 years of age)

**BAPTISMS:** Parents and expectant parents who wish to have their children baptized in the Catholic faith must attend a Baptismal Preparation Class. This class is held at SJN on a monthly basis. Please call the Parish Office to register for the class and schedule the Baptism.

**WEDDINGS:** Couples planning to be married should call the Parish Office and schedule an appointment with a priest at least six months prior to your planned wedding date.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Please pick up a registration form in the Gathering Area or stop by the Parish Office to register.

**HOSPITALIZED & HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS:** It is very important that you contact the Parish Office to receive Anointing of the Sick or Communion. Otherwise, we might not know of your need.



## *Preparing for Christ's Arrival In the Feast of Christmas*

We invite you to carve out some time in your busy December schedule to prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ in the feast of Christmas.

At St. John Neumann Parish, we provide a number of different ways, with special family programs, a Community Penance Service and more than a few chances to party.

Some examples:

**WOMEN'S GUILD** — The Women's Guild holds its annual Christmas luncheon at 1:30 p.m. today (Sunday) in Austin Hall. Each person is asked to bring a dish to share and a \$5 gift to exchange.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** — The Columbian Squires, the youth arm of the Knights of Columbus, will have its annual Christmas card sale after all Masses this weekend and next weekend. These beautiful cards can be purchased in the Gathering Area. It is the Squires' only fund raising event of the year, so please consider buying a box. Details: Andy, (704) 545-8274.

**AROMALIGHT CANDLES** — The SJN Youth Group is selling these candles this week and next. Details can be found in the "Religious Education" section of this bulletin.

**K OF C LADIES AUXILIARY** — The Ladies Auxiliary's Christmas Party is at 1 p.m. Thursday at Lava Java. Members will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the church parking lot, if a ride is needed. All women are invited. Details: Alice Hallett, (704) 364-7441; Claire Schmitz, (704) 882-5474.

**FAMILY ADVENT PROGRAM** — Join us at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, for a pot-luck dinner and special Advent/Christmas program. See details on Page 6 of this week's bulletin.

**COMMUNITY PENANCE SERVICE** — Priests from around the Charlotte area will be at St. John Neumann Church for the annual Penance Service at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15. It's a chance to participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas.

**FAMILY FUN DAY** — The Knights of Columbus invites the families of SJN to an afternoon of Christmas crafts, games and fun, from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at the Columbus Swim and Tennis Club on Idlewild Road. A holiday movie and popcorn is planned from 3-4 p.m., and Santa will be available for photos with children. If interested in attending, you must RSVP by Dec. 14, by calling Dan or Dianne O'Sullivan, (704) 573-3859.

If you can't attend the service at our church, here is the schedule at other parishes in the Charlotte area:

**Tuesday:** St. Patrick, Dilworth Road, 7 p.m.; St. Gabriel, corner of Providence and Sharon Amity roads, 7 p.m.; **Wednesday:** St. Peter, South Tryon Street, 7 p.m.

**Monday, Dec. 12:** Our Lady of Assumption, Shamrock Drive, 7 p.m.; **Wednesday, Dec. 14:** St. Vincent de Paul, Park Road, 7 p.m.; St. Luke, Lawyers Road, 7 p.m.; **Thursday, Dec. 15:** St. Mark, Stumptown Road, Huntersville, 7 p.m.; **Sunday, Dec. 18:** St. Ann, Park Road, 4 p.m.; **Monday, Dec. 19:** St. Thomas Aquinas, Suther Road, 7 p.m.



## Holy Masses This Week



|                  |          |  |
|------------------|----------|--|
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | 9:15 AM  | +Joseph Mitchell<br>(The Matys family)                   |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   | 9:15 AM  | +Madeline Conlin<br>(Wilbur Tietjen)                     |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | 9:15 AM  | +Joseph Michael Gherardi<br>(Egidio Gherardi)            |
|                  | 7:00 PM  | +Jim Matys<br>(SJN Music Staff)                          |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  | 9:15 AM  | +Aurora Long<br>(Lynne and Craig Stoll)                  |
|                  | 7:00 PM  | +Terry McKeever<br>(10am Choir)                          |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    | 9:15 AM  | +Marie Lucille Gherardi<br>(Egidio Gherardi)             |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>  | 9:15 AM  | Dsouza-Pereira<br>family intentions<br>(Their daughters) |
|                  | 5:30 PM  | Rhykerd family intentions                                |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | 7:30 AM  | +Edward McKnight<br>(Dorothy McKnight<br>and family)     |
|                  | 10:00 AM | +Mark Kellams<br>(His mother)                            |
|                  | Noon     | +Marie Meringolo<br>(Ann St. Pierre)                     |
|                  | 6:00 PM  | People of the Parish                                     |



**PLEASE PRAY for:**

**IN OUR PRAYERS** — Ronnie Alston, Joan Battista, Helen Bell, Bob Betters, Chandler Cook, Cathy Davison, Lori Demmery, Robert Dopman, Carlos Espina, John Flaherty, William Foust, Donna Gallagher, Raymond Gload, Gerry Grant, Carol Hale, Bette Keller, Frank Kocher, Monica Lee.

Mary Ann Maher, Barbara Mullally, Josephine Nardone, Josh Nickerson, Teri O'Hara, Elissa Packard, Mary Pappas, Mary Rapacik, Kathy Rice, Lenore Rickey, Sharon Roppo, Rita Sadler, Chantal Saxon, Helen Servicky, Ann Solnick, Nicholas Van Czack, James Wiberly, Douglas William.

### This Week's Readings

**Monday:** Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26.

**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14.

**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30.

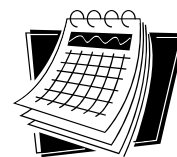
**Thursday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;  
Lk 1:26-38.

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19.

**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13.

**Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54;  
1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28.

## A Peek at the Week!!



### Today (December 4)

8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. — Faith Formation classes  
10-11 a.m. — 3&4-year-old co-op (CI 8, 9)  
1-5 p.m. — Giving Manger wrapping (GA)  
1-3 p.m. — Women's Guild meeting (AH)  
3-4 p.m.—Advent Concert— Piano/Organ (Chu)  
4:45-5:45 p.m. — Faith Formation classes  
5-6 p.m. — Youth Choir rehearsal (Chu)  
7-8:15 p.m. — Confirmation classes (EW, AH)  
7-8:45 p.m. — Youth Group (PH)

### Monday (December 5)

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Open Arms Preschool  
10-11:30 a.m. — 50+ Club board meeting (Lib)  
10-Noon — Bible Study (CR)

### Tuesday (December 6)

6:30-8:30 p.m. — Cub Scout Pack 12 meeting (EW)  
7-9 p.m. — Sunday choir rehearsal (Chu)  
7:30-9:30 p.m. — Prayer Group (Lib)

### Wednesday (December 7)

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Open Arms Preschool  
4:30-5:30 p.m. — Faith Formation classes  
7 p.m.— Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception

### Thursday (December 8)

7 p.m. — Mass for Feast of the Immaculate Conception

### Friday (December 9)

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Open Arms Preschool  
6:30-8:30 p.m. — Girl Scout Troop 1112 and 1850  
meetings (AH)  
7-11 p.m. — Bingo (PH)

### Saturday (December 10)

9 a.m.-3 p.m. — Boy Scouts training session (PH)

### Next Sunday (December 11)

8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. — Faith Formation classes  
10-11 a.m. — 3-Year-Old Co-Op (CI 8, 9)  
1:30 p.m. — Youth Group Activity—Offsite  
3-4 p.m.—Advent Concert— Instrumental (Chu)  
4:45-5:45 p.m. — Faith Formation classes  
5-6 p.m. — Youth Choir rehearsal (Chu)  
7-8:15 p.m. — Confirmation classes (EW, AH)

### EVENT SITE ABBREVIATIONS

**AH** — Austin Hall (house next to the church)

**Chu** — Church

**CI** — Classroom

**CR** — Council Room

**EW** — Education Wing

**GA** — Gathering Area

**Lib** — Library

**MH** — Mini-Hall (in Classroom wing)

**PH** — Parish Hall

## Giving Manger Drive Ends This Weekend

Remember, the annual SJN Giving Manger ends today (Sunday). Please return unwrapped gifts in a bag (with tag attached) no later than noon today.

If you purchased a gift card, please remember to place it in the Offertory Basket or put it in the mail slot at the Parish Office — so these cards do not get lost.

If you forgot your gift, please call Debbie Santore, (704) 882-6944, to arrange to have it picked up — or you can drop off the gift at the Parish Office this week. Thank you for your participation and continued support.

### Spiritual Adoption: 2nd Month Prayers

Many of you participated in the spiritual "adoption" of unborn children on Respect Life Sunday in early October.

Here are some second-month prayers and reminders:



#### A Request:

Keep praying for me! I am 2 months old now and about 2 inches long. Look! You can see my eyes, nose and mouth. I will use them to experience God's world after I am born.

#### A Reminder:

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.

— prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Please remember to pray daily for your Spiritual Adopted Baby and the baby's mother and father.

### Take Another Step ... There's Still Time

It's never too late ... to Take Another Step.

For those who have not returned the 2005 Stewardship commitment card, please drop it in the collection basket at Mass, or mail it to the Parish Office. Extra cards are available in the Gathering Area.

Thank you for your responses and for your generous giving of your time and talent.

# Parish News

**THE WOMEN'S GUILD** would like to thank attorney Fred Benson for the very informative talk he gave at the group's November meeting, regarding wills, trusts and other related topics.

**CONTEST FOR YOUTHS** — Entries are due today for the Knights of Columbus' annual Fall Poster and Essay Contest. Children in grades K-8 are eligible.

**THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** meets on the second Tuesday of every month, and meetings are open to all interested parishioners. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, in Austin Hall.

**ATTENTION, HARRISBURG RESIDENTS** — Here is an opportunity to enhance your stewardship in the Catholic faith. A Catholic resident of The Heritage at Town Center is asking for a ride to Mass each weekend.

The Heritage at Town Center is at 6300 Roberta Road, in Harrisburg. Please call Mary in the Parish Office (704-536-6520) if you can be of assistance.

**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY** — Charlotte Right to Life is announcing its Hero for Life Scholarship Award. This award grants a \$2,000 educational scholarship to the winning applicant whose actions best champion the unborn and respect for life.

Applicants must be 14-18 years of age. For information, visit [www.charlottelife.org](http://www.charlottelife.org). Applications are due by Jan. 31, 2006. For info, e-mail Jason Beckert, at [stock-wiz30@aol.com](mailto:stock-wiz30@aol.com), or Debbie Capen, at [dmcapen@earthlink.net](mailto:dmcapen@earthlink.net).

**WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED** of teachers and assistants for the ESL classes, sponsored by the Evangelization Commission. Come by the Parish Hall any Thursday before 7 p.m. The next class is this Thursday.

**DO YOU HAVE** special health, financial, emotional or spiritual concerns? Why not come and pray with the Prayer Group on Tuesday nights, from 7:30-9 p.m. in the Library?

**PARA NUESTROS FELIGRESES ESPAÑOLES:** El grupo de oración se reúne todos los martes a las 7:30 p.m. en la biblioteca de la Iglesia. Todos son bienvenidos. Queremos orar en todos los idiomas.



The Music Ministry of SJN hosts an

### Advent Concert Series

Today (Dec. 4) Piano/Organ with Lance Burnette and Monty Bennett

Dec. 11 Violin, Flute, Harp, Piano & Organ

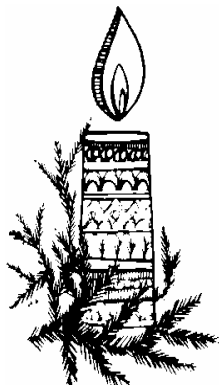
Dec. 18 Queen City Ringers handbell ensemble

All concerts begin at 3 p.m. in the Church and last an hour.



**Holiday Shopping?  
SJN Youth Group Has Answer**

The SJN Youth Group's third annual Aromalight Candle Sale will take place after all Masses this weekend and next weekend.



We will have traditional favorites — Christmas Tree, Cinnamon Sticks, etc. — as well as new fragrances, including Chocolate Mint, Candied Apple, and Snow Cream.

These are great gifts, at \$10 to \$12 each.

There's free gift wrapping, too!  
Proceeds benefit the SJN Youth Group.

**Protecting God's Children —  
Workshops Scheduled**

"Protecting God's Children" is a workshop concerning the prevention of child sexual abuse.

The workshop is required by the Diocese of Charlotte for ALL volunteers and church employees who work with those who are vulnerable — children, teens, the handi-capped, infirm, etc.

For those who have not attended a workshop, there is an event scheduled next month in the area:

**Jan. 21** — St. Mark Church, Huntersville; 9 a.m.-noon.

You can register in any of three ways:

- Go online at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org), and click "Registration"
- Contact the host parish.
- Contact the Diocese of Charlotte's Human Resource Dept., (704) 370-3338, or the diocesan Web site, [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).

**OTHER RELIGIOUS ED NEWS**

**WEDNESDAYS WITH DEACON JOHN RETURNS —**

Join Deacon John for a special Advent series from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays — this week and again Dec. 14 — in Austin Hall. Everyone is welcome to any or all sessions. Baby sitting is provided in the Parish Nursery.

**You're Invited ...  
To Our Advent Family Program**

We're hoping all parishioners will join us for a special evening event in December.

The SJN Advent Family Program will take place on Dec. 14 (a Wednesday), from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall. A program originally planned for this Wednesday will not take place, because it is the Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

But on Dec. 14, Fr. David Valtierra from the Oratory will talk about Advent and Christmas.

The evening will feature a pot-luck supper. Bring a dish that serves 8 to 10 people, to share.

There will be age-appropriate classes and babysitting for children ages 2 and younger. We are in need of volunteers to serve as teachers and assistants for the program. If interested or for details, call Donna, (704) 545-8916, or Nancy, (704) 545-2103.

**Coming Today ...  
Our Annual Fall Cleanup**

Want to provide service to others, get exercise, AND be outside to enjoy our beautiful fall weather?

Then come join the Service/Social Committee in doing yard work for our elderly parishioners today (Sunday). We will meet after the noon Mass in the parking lot and give directions, etc.

We will work until 3:30 p.m. All are welcome to join, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring rakes, trimmers, blowers, work gloves, leaf bags, etc. Questions? Call Mike or Sue, at (704) 573-9695.

**SJN WEEKLY COLLECTIONS**

|                                    | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Budget</b> |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Nov. 19-20 weekend ...             | \$ 13,115     | \$ 14,658     |
| Nov. 26-27 weekend ...             | \$ 12,390     | \$ 14,658     |
| Campaign for Human Development ... | \$ 3,978      |               |

The budget represents the amount needed to meet SJN's financial obligations. Thank you for your support of our parish community.

*Thank you for using your Offertory envelope and clearly writing the donation amount in the appropriate space. Thanks also for not combining different types of donations in the same check (i.e., Offertory, Mass intentions, flower offerings, etc.)*

# Diocesan News ....

**OPLAKY: BLESSED CHRISTMAS WAFERS** — The Eastern European and Latino Christmas Eve tradition of sharing the Oplatek, or Christmas Wafer, at dinner can be rekindled. Traditionally, breaking and sharing the Christmas wafer with family and friends is accompanied with best wishes and expressions of forgiveness, helping us to bring joy and happiness to our hearts and homes.

Orders for the wagers will be taken until Dec. 23. Cost is 50 cents per wafer. Call Helen Collins at (704) 365-1161, or e-mail order requests to [helencollins@carolina.rr.com](mailto:helencollins@carolina.rr.com). Proceeds go to Catholic Social Services.

**JUST SECOND FRIDAYS**, the monthly peace/justice program, will be from 1 to 2 p.m. Friday in the Atrium Room of the Annex Building of St. Peter Catholic Church on South Tryon Street. The Annex is behind the church, on College Street. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., and lunch is provided. Parking is available in the underground garage next to St. Peter's.

Guest speaker this month is Fr. Thomas Gaunt, executive secretary of Jesuit Conference USA, discussing "Religious Values in the Workplace: Revisiting the 'Workbench of Life,' Twenty Years Later." Visit [www.cssnc.org/justicepeace](http://www.cssnc.org/justicepeace) or call (704) 370-3225 for information.

**NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES** is a support program for grandparents and/or other relatives raising children age 5 or younger. The group is seeking volunteers to watch children during support group meetings for grandparents. Virtus training and background checks are required. Interested? Call Colleen Cranford, (704) 370-3248.

**GOING TO ROME** — Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Monroe is organizing a trip to Rome — a chance to see the Eternal City and visit the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica, where Pope John Paul II recently was laid to rest. This exciting trip will combine education, fun and worship. The parish's pastor, Fr. Jim Cassidy, will lead the trip, which takes place April 18-26, 2006. For information, call Gina or Veronica, (704) 289-2773.

**NEW RECEPTION CENTER** — St. Matthews Knights of Columbus has opened their new Wedding and Reception Center, at 9009 Bryant Farms Road, in the Ballantyne area. The facility has an upscale look, with a backyard patio available for wedding ceremonies. The facility can handle up to 200 people. For details, call (704) 341-3312.