

# 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

Friday 4 p.m. 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)

## 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.

*Dear Parishioners:*

I want to wish each of you a Happy and a Holy New Year.

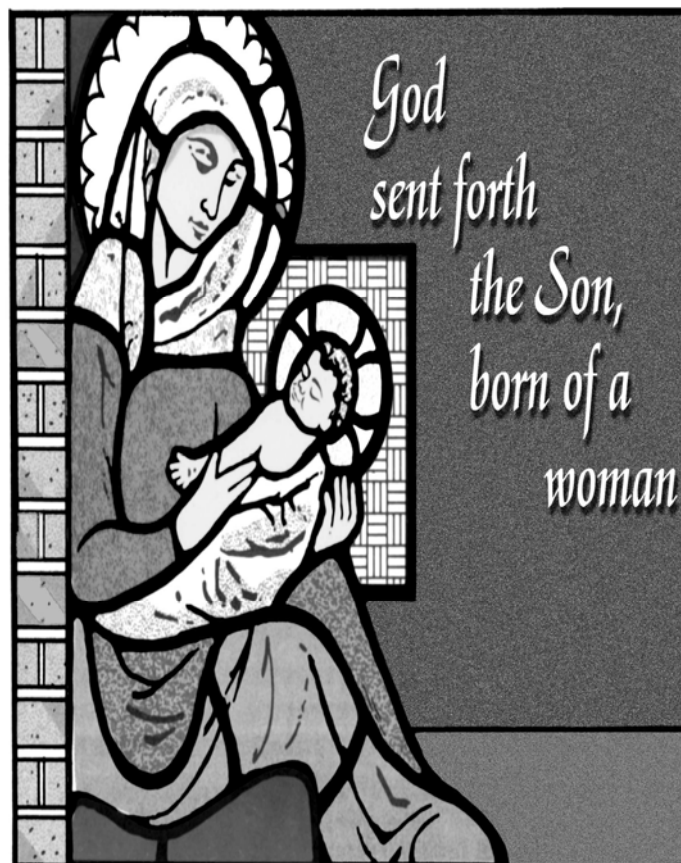
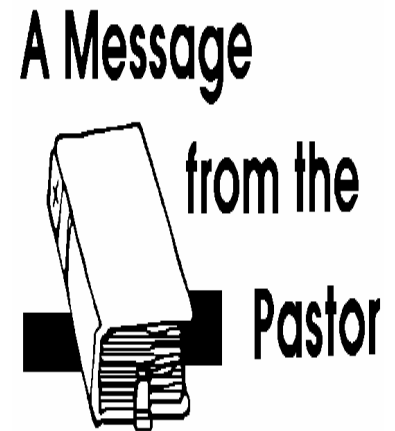
As we begin 2006, we are asked to remember in our prayers our men and women serving our country in the military. We must all continue to pray for world peace and for the safe return home of these brave and wonderful young men and women.

Next Sunday we say farewell to Father Art. He will be leaving us for a new assignment for our community in Lawrence, Massachusetts, where he is originally from. I thank Father Art for being here at St. John for the second time.

Father Art will celebrate the 10:00 AM Mass followed by a reception in the Parish Hall sponsored by our Family Life Commission. Please plan on joining us to send Father Art off to his new assignment. Please pray that a new Friar will soon come to join me here to continue our service to each of you. Once again, have a Happy New Year.

*God's Blessing and Peace to each of you.*

*Father Thom*



## Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

### LOOKING FOR ANGELS

Today's Gospel reading begins with the shepherds rushing "in haste to Bethlehem." We know why they were running. Angels had appeared to them in the night, a breakthrough from the world beyond the ordinary. And the shepherds responded with great excitement.

Some nine months earlier, an angel had burst into the life of the young woman Mary. That also was a breakthrough from the world beyond our world, a message from the Divinity. It was a call to Mary to see beyond the ordinary possibilities of her life. She responded with an open heart and became the Mother of God.

After the shepherds had departed, "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." The angels also reach out to us, call to us from God. We must be alert for their call. We must listen for those messages from beyond our ordinary world. Mary can help us stay awake this year, alert and listening for God's call.

*Today's Readings: Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21*

## ***The Christmas Gift***

**In every town,  
Around the Earth,  
It's a favorite time of year.**

**People are smiling.  
They're dancing and caroling,  
Bringing all good cheer.**

**Some will remember,  
But most will forget  
Why we celebrate this day.**

**Please take some time  
To remember the reason  
Before it gets too late.**

**We celebrate a babe  
Who was born in a manger  
Many years ago.**

**He came to earth  
From his heavenly home  
With a gift to bestow.**

**He gave the gift  
Of eternal life  
To all that would believe.**

**Just open your heart  
To this message of love  
So this gift, you may receive.**

**Once you have the gift  
It's not yours to keep.  
It's a gift to give away.**

**So cherish it  
And share with a friend  
For a special Christmas Day!**

***Joy L. Buff, 2005***



## Holy Masses This Week



<b>MONDAY</b>	9:15 AM	<i>Christmas Novena Intentions</i>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	9:15 AM	<i>Our Lady of Fatima (Leonor Xavier)</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:15 AM	<i>+Ann Pettis (Mr. &amp; Mrs. Leonard Schmitz)</i>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	9:15 AM	<i>Living and deceased members of the Parish (Feast of St. John Neumann)</i>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	9:15 AM	<i>+Jim Matys (Gene Corey)</i>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	5:30 PM	<i>John Klein (The family)</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	7:30 AM	<i>+Edward McKnight (Dorothy McKnight and family)</i>
	10:00 AM	<i>+Elliott Bowyer (The family)</i>
	Noon	<i>+Clete Mulheirn (Edna Chilcott)</i>
	6:00 PM	<i>People of the Parish</i>



**PLEASE PRAY for:**

**IN OUR PRAYERS** — Ronnie Alston, Joan Battista, Helen Bell, Bob Betters, Cathy Davison, Lori Demmery, Linda Dolezan, Ryan Dolezan, Robert Dopman, Carlos Espina, John Flaherty, Donna Gallagher, Raymond Gload, Gerry Grant, Robert Griffith, Dee Dee Irvine, Bette Keller, Frank Kocher, Monica Lee.

Mary Ann Maher, Barbara Mullally, Josh Nickerson, Teri O'Hara, Elissa Packard, Mary Pappas, Jeff Patton, Kathy Rice, Lenore Rickey, Sharon Roppo, Carol Savetski, Chantal Saxon, Helen Servicky, Ann Solnick, Nicholas Van Czak, James Wiberly, Douglas William.

### This Week's Readings

**Monday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28.  
**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34.  
**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42.  
**Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51.  
**Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38.  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 2:1-11.  
**Sunday:** Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6;  
 Mt 2:1-12.

## A Peek at the week!!



### Today (January 1)

No events scheduled.

### Monday (January 2)

10-11:30 a.m. — 50+ Club board meeting (Lib)

### Tuesday (January 3)

6:30-8:30 p.m. — Cub Scout Pack 12 meeting (CI 11,12)

7:30-9:30 p.m. — Prayer Group (Lib)

### Wednesday (January 4)

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Open Arms Preschool

4:30-5:30 p.m. — Faith Formation classes

6-7 p.m. — Children's Choir practice (CR)

7-9 p.m. — Quilters group (AH)

7-9 p.m. — RCIA (Lib)

### Thursday (January 5)

10-11 a.m. — Exercise class (PH)

7-9 p.m. — Y.E.S.—Youth Engaging Scripture (AH)

7-8:30 p.m. — ESL classes (EW, PH)

### Friday (January 6)

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 (January 7)

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

6:45-9:45 p.m. — Junior Youth Group (PH)

### Next Sunday (January 8)

8:30 a.m.-noon — Faith Formation classes

10-11 a.m. — 3&4-Year-Old Co-Op (CI 8, 9)

1:30-4 p.m. — Women's Guild meeting (AH)

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)

7-8:30 p.m. — Youth Group (PH)

### 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

## ***Please Help This Special Campaign for a Special Person***

We are requesting donations to purchase a computerized communication device for Lenore Rickey, a SJN parishioner in a nursing home with an advanced form of multiple sclerosis.

Before MS began affecting Lenore, she was active as a religious educator and in many other programs at our parish.

At this point, she is not able to move her limbs and no longer can speak. The device, called an Eyegaze (see [www.eyegaze.com](http://www.eyegaze.com)) is operated entirely with the eyes. It will enable Lenore to communicate with caregivers, family and friends via voice synthesis.

She also will be able to control some aspects of her environment, such as a call bell, radio, lamp and fan. The cost of this technology is \$15,000, and we already have \$7,000.

Please consider being a small part of this life-giving gift. Tax-deductible donations may be made by writing a check to "St. John Neumann Church" (with Lenore Rickey Fund on the memo line).

The checks can be dropped in the collection baskets (place them in a well-marked envelope) or mailed to 8451 Idlewild Road, Charlotte, NC 28227.

It is truly a case where a little bit from a lot of people can make a HUGE difference in a life!!!

## ***Monday Morning Bible Study Resumes***

*"Lord, teach us to pray." Luke 11:1*

How many times this past month has a friend, loved one, or even a stranger asked you to intercede for them in prayer? We are asked to pray for people, situations and various special needs of others.

Do you ever get discouraged and give up praying for someone because you don't see any visible results? Intercession is one of the most important ways that we share in the ministry of Jesus himself in this world.

Come join us, beginning Monday, Jan. 23, as we discover what Scripture teaches us about praying for others, with an increased sense of God's presence and will. (Babysitting provided)

We will use "Intercession, A Guide to Effective Prayer," by Sr. Ann Shields, S.G.I. The cost is \$8.

Call Sandra, (704) 841-7562, to register and order a copy of the book. Or e-mail [sstclair2@carolina.rr.com](mailto:ssclair2@carolina.rr.com).

# **Parish News**

**Y.E.S. BEGINS THIS WEEK** — Austin Hall will be the place to be for teens in grades 9-12 — from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday (Jan. 5). Y.E.S. (Youth Engaging Scripture) is a teen Scripture study program. It's Scripture Study led by your peers. Lessons developed by teens, for teens. Learning experiences geared toward many types of learners. *It's serious FUN!!!*

Do you want to be a leader? Do you just want more information? Call Colleen Ogrodnick, (704) 882-1128.

**THE WOMEN'S GUILD** will have its next meeting at 1:30 p.m. next Sunday (Jan. 8), in Austin Hall. This will be Game Day. Come and learn a new game, or bring your favorite game to play. All ladies of the parish are welcome.

**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 [stockwiz30@aol.com](mailto:stockwiz30@aol.com), or Debbie Capen, at [dmcapen@earthlink.net](mailto:dmcapen@earthlink.net).

**WOULD YOU LIKE** the Prayer Group to pray over you? Come join us on Tuesday nights from 7:30-9 p.m. in the Library.

**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 PARA NUESTROS biblioteca de la Iglesia. Todos son bienvenidos. Queremos orar en todos los idiomas.

## **SJN WEEKLY COLLECTIONS**

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Dec. 17-18 weekend .....	\$ 13,619	\$ 14,658

## **New Bulletin Deadline...**

**Friday 4pm, one week  
before print date.**

All items must be submitted to the Parish Office for approval by Father Thom. Items can be emailed or dropped off. See the inside cover for contact info.

# Diocesan News ...

**ATTENTION, POLISH-SPEAKING PARISHIONERS** — St. Matthew Catholic Church will have a Mass in Polish at 3:30 p.m. today (Sunday), in the Daily Mass Chapel. Confessions will be available from 2 p.m. For information, call Elizabeth Spytkowski, (704) 948-1678. St. Matthew is at Ballantyne Commons Parkway and Rea Road, just off I-485 at the Rea Road exit.

**A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS** will be presented at 7 p.m. next Sunday (Jan. 8), at St. Vincent de Paul Church, on Old Reid Road near SouthPark. The parish's Adult Choir, Handbell Choir and Children's Choir will present the works of Pitoni, Manz and Dawson. A reception will follow the concert in the parish center. The program is open to all.

**YOUTH BASKETBALL CLINICS** — The Holy Trinity Athletic Association and the Charlotte Royals Basketball program will hold clinics for boys and girls, grades 3-7, on Jan. 16, 27 and Feb. 20 at Holy Trinity Middle School, on Park Road in south Charlotte. Clinics are from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with a cost of \$25 a session. Discounts are offered for teams or multiple family members. The clinic is directed by Sean Kilmartin, a former NCAA Division I coach and professional player in Europe. Details: Lynn Selland, (704) 366-6699, or contact Sean Kilmartin at rmssek@aol.com.

**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. Matthew's Knights of Columbus has opened their new Wedding and Reception Center, at 9009 Bryant Farms Road, in the Ballantyne area of south Charlotte. 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.