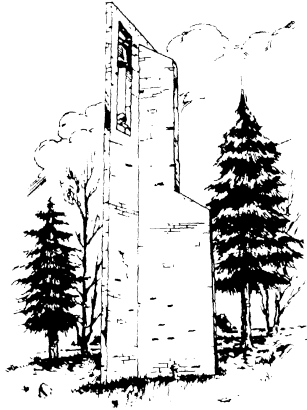


St. John Neumann Church

*A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
CENTERED IN PRAYER AND EUCHARIST*

HANDBOOK OF PARISH ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS



*Rev. Robert J. Kraig, Pastor
Rev. Steve H. Breck, Associate Pastor
Rev. Ed Leonard, Associate Pastor
Rev. Tom W. Tift, Weekend Associate
Rev. Mr. Tom Grasson, Permanent Deacon
Sr. Mary Popoczy, SND, Pastoral Associate
Sr. Pat Sylvester, SND, Pastoral Associate
Sandy Zorn, Pastoral Associate*

MISSION STATEMENT

We the Community of St. John Neumann are centered in the celebration of the Eucharist and follow the teachings and actions of Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We, a people with diverse needs and gifts, are a part of the Body of Christ, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, and the community of Strongsville.

We seek to:

- ❖ be a Christian family which cares about each member and all of God's people, by promoting harmony, reconciliation, and healing among them.
- ❖ pass on our cherished faith and traditions.
- ❖ establish responsible stewardship of our time, talent, and resources.
- ❖ build the Kingdom - community of God on earth while on our mutual spiritual journey to eternal life with Jesus.

"The body is one and has many members. But all the members, many though they are, are one body; and so it is with Christ."

1 Cor. 12:12

Rectory - Administrative Office
16271 Pearl Road - Strongsville, Ohio
440-238-1770
440-238-2030 (fax)
www.sjnohio.com

Ss. Joseph and John Interparochial School
440-238-4877

One of the best ways to feel "at home" in a parish is to become involved in one or more parish organizations or programs. St. John Neumann Parish has a wide variety of organizations and activities to meet your specific needs. It is hoped this list of parish groups and contacts will be of help to you and your family.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting bi-monthly consists of approximately 15 members.. Any parishioner who wishes to serve on the Council please see Fr. Bob Kraig.

All parish organizations are represented in Council by one of the six parish commissions. These organizations are listed by commission.

The Parish Commissions are:

CELEBRATING

EVANGELIZATION

CARING

DEVELOPMENT

TEACHING

PARTICIPATING

Other Parish Programs under:

SPIRITUAL PROGRAMS

CELEBRATING

Adult Servers

Men of the parish serve at funerals once or twice a month.

Altar Servers

Assist at weekend liturgy. Open to young men and women in grades 5 and up.

Art and Environment Committee

Work with the Liturgy Committee to help decorate the church for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

Charismatic First Friday Mass

The Heart of Living Water Prayer Group invites you to join in prayer and celebration at their First Friday Charismatic Mass. The Mass begins at 8:00 p.m. and prayer teams are available after Mass for individual prayer. Come to this monthly Mass, celebrate the Eucharist, and allow the Holy Spirit to fill your mind, heart, life, and your worship with his Presence.

Eucharistic Ministers

Lay people who distribute Communion during Masses and take the Eucharist to residents of Altenheim Nursing Home.

Greeters

Families or individuals who can be in Church at least 15 minutes before any Mass to welcome parishioners and be available to extend hospitality to visitors..

Lectors

Proclaim the scriptures at weekend Masses. Open to teenagers and adults.

Liturgy Committee

Identifies seasonal themes (which are implemented by the Art and Environment Committee), prepares informational material for the bulletin, and gives voice to parish liturgical needs and concerns.

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Celebrated during Advent and Lent in the Gathering Room during the 5 P.M. Liturgy. Children in grades 1 through 4 are invited to hear the Word of the Lord presented on their level. The children return to the Church at the offertory.

Music Ministry:

The Lord is my Master Musician. His song is the song of my heart. I am the instrument of his craftsmanship and He assigns me a place to make music. Make your life a song to God! St. Paul instructs the Church to teach one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

Adult Choir

Leads congregational singing at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday liturgy. Traditional choral selections sung and limited musical skills needed with a love for singing! Instrumentalists also welcomed. Rehearsal: Wednesday 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Church.

Children's Choir

Open to children in grades 2nd through 8th. Lead congregational singing every other Saturday at the 5:00 p.m. liturgy, and for special occasions.

Funeral Choir

Lead singing at funeral liturgies to minister to grieving families.

Life Teen Ensemble

Musicians leading liturgy music for the Sunday 6:00 p.m. Life Teen Liturgy, and at various events sponsored for the Life Teen Program. Ability to read music necessary. Rehearsal: Monday, 7:30 p.m. in Church.

Liturgical Cantors

Lead congregational singing at the 5:00 p.m., 7:30 a.m., and 12:00 p.m. liturgies. Ability to read music necessary. Rehearsal: scheduled as necessary.

Praise & Worship Ensemble

Musicians guided by the Holy Spirit to bring others into prayerful worship at the 9:00 a.m. Sunday liturgy. Worship music begins at 8:45 a.m. inviting the congregation to prepare their hearts to enter the liturgy. Ability to read music is necessary. Charismatic and Christian contemporary music interspersed. Rehearsal: Thursday, 7:40 p.m. in Church. Call Mary Pachuta 440-582-5239 for an audition.

Sacristans

Assist in the preparation of the sanctuary before Mass and the care of the sacred vessels after Mass.

Ushers

Help welcome and serve as our parish gathers. Assist at one Mass once a month. Open to women, men, and couples.

EVANGELIZING

Evangelization Commission

Brings the Good News of Jesus into every human situation, and invites new people into the church and shares faith through spiritual growth programs to those in the Church.

Isabellas

The women's auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus.

Knights of Columbus

A fraternal organization of men that does charitable works for the parish and for the Church in general.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.)

For those who wish to become Catholic. Weekly meetings provide an overview of what the church teaches, within a caring community. Normally, reception of the Sacraments for adults takes place at the Easter Vigil. Contact the staff person if you or someone you know is interested in becoming a candidate or becoming a member of the R.C.I.A. team.

Welcome and Registration

This group welcomes new parishioners and helps them register in the parish. Welcome and Registration takes place on the third Sunday of the Month after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

CARING

Al-Anon

Meets Monday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Redemptorist meeting room.

Bereavement

Assistance given to those coping with the loss of a loved one. Members help in coordination of baked goods delivered to parishioners, babysitting, housesitting, picking up relatives at the airport, and coordinating use of the LAC for family reception. An All Souls Memorial Mass is celebrated in November to remember all who have died. This Mass is open to all parishioners to support and celebrate the New Life in Christ. Free Grief Recover Support Programs, of six weekly meetings, are held at St. Joseph Church throughout the year. Consult the bulletin for current programs.

Blood Drive

American Red Cross holds blood drives in the LaRocca Activity Center three times a year. Volunteers assist with registration and refreshments.

Cancer Support Group

Support group will provide spiritual and emotional support for anyone that has had cancer touch their lives. An informal group providing an opportunity to come together as a faith community to share experiences and feelings, and to pray for the needs of all cancer patients and their loved ones.

Compassion Companions

Volunteers to be companion our homebound parishioners, for 3-4 hours, so that the caregiver can take care of needs outside the home. A training program and background check are required

First Friday Calls

St. John's staff visits homebound parishioners on the First Friday of each month or within the week of the First Friday. Calls are made by the secretary or staff member to confirm the time of the visit.

Ministry to the Homebound

Trained Eucharistic Ministers volunteer to take Holy Communion to our homebound parishioners. To bring the Eucharist to the homebound is a tradition in the Church, as well as a privilege. Call the office to set up an appointment with the staff member in charge of this ministry. At this time you are given the name of the homebound parishioner, become acquainted with the correct procedure, receive a copy of the Rite, and be given a pyx for your ministry.

SJN Wellness Ministry

The SJN Wellness ministry is a compassion connection. We act as a bridge to connect parishioners with the resources, education, and information most helpful in meeting their needs for a healthy relationship between body, mind, and spirit. Presently, the ministry sponsors meetings for health professionals, and parishioners, blood pressure and hearing checks for the Neumann Senior adults, blood drives, Life-Line screening and an Annual Wellness Fair.

Social Concerns Committee

Addresses issues of concern to us as Christians such as social issues that impact the family and all of us as individuals; Respect for Life, the Homeless, the poor and the hungry. Some functions include collecting canned goods, serving meals at St. Patrick's on Bridge Avenue, blanket Sunday, the giving tree, and mitten tree.

St. Vincent dePaul Society

Organized to help the needy within our parish. Men and women members needed.

DEVELOPMENT

Finance Committee

Meets periodically to discuss financial matters regarding the entire church community of St. John Neumann. If you have an interest in this committee or any questions regarding church finances, call the church rectory.

Landscape Committee

Members help beautify the Church grounds on a seasonal basis.

Long Range Planning Committee

The committee plans for future needs of our parish in the areas of facilities and property maintenance.

TEACHING

Adult Education

Various programs for continuing religious education for adults are planned and offered, including Q & A evening yearly. Contact staff person if you have suggestions of programs and/or topics. Watch for announcements in the bulletin.

Baptism Program

Special instruction and preparation for the parents of children receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. Parents who are expecting a baby or planning to have a child baptized should contact the Rectory to find out when the next Baptism class will be. We need adults interested in serving on the team which helps parents prepare for their child's Baptism.

Learning Circle Nursery School

Learning Circle Nursery School - A.M. and P.M. sessions for 3 and 4 year olds. Classes held weekdays in the Gathering Room.

Life Teen Service & Outreach

Leadership Team offers teens in grades 9 – 12 opportunities to learn leadership skills and to plan and implement service and social activities for teens. We meet monthly and plan at least one activity per month that is open to all teens. Outreach to others is the major thrust of this group. A team of adults minister to and with the Leadership Team.

Life Teen Program

A comprehensive youth ministry program for teens in grades 9 – 12. The Life Teen Program is centered in the Eucharist. The Life Teen Mass is celebrated at 6 p.m. on Sundays throughout the school year. A program or “Life Night” follows to explore issues and religious education topics in creative ways that appeal to teens. We offer two retreats each year as well as social and service opportunities. Teens are welcome to bring their friends (of any faith) as long as they are in grades 9 – 12. A Core Group of adults and young adults ministers to the teens through Life Teen.

Marriage Encounter

Marriage encounter is a movement dedicated to enriching the Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders. We offer a weekend experience that will focus on communication techniques designed to help us grow close in relationship to God and each other. The vision is to help build strong couples, families and Church.

Men’s Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets at 7 a.m., Wednesday mornings in the Marian Room. We study by raising questions, research and sharing.

Middle School Ministry

Seventh and Eighth graders have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry. Youth may choose to participate in any or all of the programs offered. Each month a service or social activity is planned for the 7th and 8th graders. A team of parents meets monthly to plan the activities for this group.

Middle School Summer Camp

A one-week camp is offered during the summer to those who will be in the 7th or 8th grade in the following fall. The camp is planned and implemented by a group of parents. High school youth leaders serve as counselors. Activities include a visit to a shrine or St. John Cathedral, a day at Six Flags, an outreach and service activity, a day of community building and a day at the Drake Road Recreation Center.

Natural Family Planning

NFP can be used to achieve or postpone a pregnancy. This method of family planning is scientifically based, highly effective and acknowledges God's plan for married love.

P.S.R. (Parish School of Religion)

Religion classes are held for Grades 1 through 7 at Ss. Joseph & John Interparochial School. Classes meet on Monday evenings from 7 – 8:30 p.m. Due to the large enrollment, classes meet every other week and are divided according to last names. Eighth grade classes meet in-groups of 10 in the

Catechists home on alternate Monday evening. Registrations are in April for the following school year.

P.S.R. Preschool & Kindergarten

Our program teaches the young children how special they are in God's love. During our hour we read a story, have a short lesson, and complete a craft and sing. We have lots of fun – just ask the children. Four and Five-year olds meet in the Gathering Room on Sunday during the 10:30 a.m. Liturgy during the school year. If you wish to help teach or prepare crafts, call the contact person.

P.S.R. Special Education

This program offers religious instruction to children with special needs. They meet on Monday evenings from 6:10 p.m. to 7:10 p.m. at Sts. Joseph and John School. Children from nine parishes participate. There is one on one instruction followed by a gathering of the whole group for singing and prayer.

Sponsor Couple Program

Sponsor couples help prepare engaged couples for marriage. The program involves 5 meetings in your home with the engaged couple. We cover topics like family of origin, communication, goals, and marriage as a covenant.

Ss. Joseph & John Interparochial School

Ss. Joseph and John Interparochial School is an integral part of St. John Neumann and St. Joseph Parishes whose life flows to and from Sunday Eucharistic Worship. We are dedicated to sharing the Good News of the Love of Jesus and to instilling a sense of hope for the future as we strive for excellence in education. Grades K - 8.

Tuesday AM Bible Sharing

Staff member conducts a Bible Study on Tuesdays after the 9:00 a.m. Mass during the school year. Readings for the up and coming Sunday are read and discussed applying them to our daily lives. Time for prayer, listening, and sharing.

Vacation Bible School

One week summer program for children entering grades K - 6. Help needed: teaching, crafts, music, refreshments, recreation. Watch for notices in bulletin.

Youth Sports – CYO

Boys & Girls soccer, basketball, and track. Girls softball, volleyball, and cheerleading. Boys football, wrestling and baseball. Open to students in grades 5 - 8 (4 – 8 track only) who attend either Sts. Joseph or John School or P.S.R. Watch for details in the church bulletin and bulletin board in school gym lobby

PARTICIPATING

Abba Religious Store

Store hours M-T-W-F-S 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Th 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., closed Sundays. Available in store among other things: Bibles, cards, rosaries, medals, prayer books, books for children, healing, and spirituality, pictures, crucifixes, wall crosses and gifts for the reception of the sacraments. Phone 238-8974.

Craft Show

The group meets twice monthly in the Redemptorist Room at 7 p.m. to work together on craft projects for our annual show. New parishioners are invited to join this group. All that is required is a spirit of community and the ability to follow directions. We begin the meetings with prayer and end with dessert.

Fish Fry

Volunteers help with the annual Lenten Fish Fry dinners during Lent. The last Fish Fry of the season is a special day of fasting for the needs of the poor. The poor receive all the money raised on this last fish fry. Call the rectory to volunteer.

Moms & Tots Group

Meet on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. to noon in the Marian Room. Adult conversation and playmates for children preschool age and under. This is a very informal gathering, feel free to attend any time during our session.

Neumann Senior Adults

Spiritual and social activities for senior citizens of the parish. Regular meeting time is the third Wednesday of the month at 2:15 p.m.

Parish Festival

The Parish Festival is a community building event. If you wish to volunteer, call the rectory office. The Parish Festival is held usually the third Sunday of August.

SPIRITUAL PROGRAMS

Area Business – Mass & Luncheon

Twice a year, in October and Lent, a 12:00 noon Mass and luncheon is hosted for the business community of Strongsville. It is a time for those in business to come together and share the Lord, then fellowship at a luncheon afterwards, leaving promptly at 1:00 p.m.

Avilas

An organization of women who have joined together under the patronage of St. Teresa to pray for religious vocations as their apostolate. A holy hour held the first Monday of every month begins with the 9:00 a.m. Liturgy.

Business Prayer Breakfast

Once a month, Third Thursday, people in the business world get together for a continental breakfast. A brief reflection follows, personal witness then some scripture presentations, group discussions, petitions and a final blessing. What a prayerful way to begin your day.

Charismatic Prayer Group - Heart of Living Water

A charismatic prayer group meets on 2nd & 4th Thursday evenings at 7:45 p.m. in the Gathering Room to give praises and worship to our God. There is vibrant music, scripture sharing, teachings, praying for the intentions of the prayer group and others, and the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit are used and encouraged. Everyone is welcome to come and praise the Lord.

Contemplative Prayer Group

The Contemplative Prayer Group meets Tuesdays of the 2nd and 4th week of the month at 7:30 p.m. The hour meeting begins with a brief social, followed by discussion on contemplative prayer from one of Fr. Keating's books, and concludes with a Centering Prayer experience. All leave in silence to take the Contemplative experience with them. Open to all. Experience the calm and peace of centering prayer! Call for an appointment.

Daytime Retreat

Our daytime retreat normally runs during the season of Lent from a Monday through a Saturday after the 9:00 a.m. weekly Mass and goes until 11:00 a.m. A light continental breakfast begins the day. Each staff member gives a presentation on a topic. The week can be any week of Lent, and is announced in the bulletin.

Eucharistic Adoration

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for private adoration during the hours of 10 a.m. to midnight, Monday through Friday. During this time parishioners pray for the needs of the parish as well as their own intentions.

First Saturday Healing Ministry

On the first Saturday of every month after the 5:00 p.m. Mass, prayer teams are available in the church to pray with anyone for healing, special needs or intentions of any kind. There is also an attendant, wearing a red ribbon, which will assist you or answer any questions.

Inner Healing Weekend Retreat

Called "The Road to Emmaus," this retreat is an opportunity for healing memories and hurtful experiences – both past and present –that keep us from living fully in the Love of Christ. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we too must eagerly press Jesus to stay with us, so that we will recognize him walking and talking with us as we remember our past and live in our present. The Road to Emmaus is just the beginning of an inner journey that will help us recognize God's unconditional love for us. This retreat also requires a response from us, to love ourselves as God loves us, unconditionally, and it empowers us to love one another in new ways, unconditionally. The retreat is offered twice a year at St. John's. Refer to the bulletin for information.

Intercessory Prayer Group

Meets the last Wednesday of the month from 9 to 10 p.m. in the Gathering Room to pray before the Blessed Sacrament for the needs of the parish as expressed in the Petition book and the prayer petition slips. All are invited to join.

Legion of Mary

The worldwide organization of men and women perform spiritual works while placing themselves under the banner of Mary. Members meet weekly on Monday morning to pray the rosary, recite Legion prayers, and assign weekly service. Spiritual works include visits to the homebound, hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons.

Life in the Spirit Seminar

Life in the Spirit is a powerful seminar dedicated to the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life. Through prayer, teachings, witnesses and small group sharing, it is an experience of God the Holy Spirit present in the life of a person to lead and empower their life as witnesses of Christ. It is an experience of Jesus inviting us, as his disciples, to know him more personally.

Neumann Small Faith Communities

Groups of between 4 and 8 people who meet on a regular basis to share their faith. It is an opportunity to get to know fellow parishioners on a deeper level and to learn from one another the influence of God's message in our lives.

Parish Mission

Held during the season of Lent. An opportunity for the whole parish to come together to listen, reflect and be renewed spiritually.

Prayer Teams After Mass

On second and fourth Sundays of the month, members of our praying community are available to meet with parishioners after the Mass, in our meeting rooms. Parishioners can come with any need or special intention and allow them to be prayed over.

Women's Spirituality

Opportunities for spiritual growth for women to come together for a day or an evening occur different times throughout the year. Watch the bulletin for dates and times.

OTHER PARISH WORK

Clerical Help

Volunteers needed to do clerical work. Please call rectory office and leave name, skills you have, and telephone number. You will be contacted when a specific need arises.

Telephone Caller

Calls can be made from your home. Please call rectory office and leave your name, and telephone number. As specific needs arise you will be contacted

INDEX

ORGANIZATION

COMMISSION

Abba Religious Store
 Adult Education
 Adult Servers
 Al-Anon
 Altar Servers
 Area Business Mass & Luncheon
 Art & Environment
 Avilas

Baptism Program
 Bereavement
 Blood Drive
 Business Prayer Breakfast

Cancer Support Group
 Charismatic First Friday Mass
 Charismatic Prayer Group -
 Heart of Living Water
 Clerical Help
 Compassion Companions
 Contemplative Prayer
 Craft Show

Daytime Retreat

Eucharistic Adoration
 Eucharistic Ministers
 Evangelization Commission

Finance Committee
 First Friday Calls
 First Saturday Healing Ministry
 Fish Fry

Greeters

Inner Healing Weekend Retreat
 Intercessory Prayer Group
 Isabellas

Participating
 Teaching
 Celebrating
 Caring
 Celebrating
 Spiritual Programs
 Celebrating
 Spiritual Program

Teaching
 Caring
 Caring
 Spiritual Programs

Caring
 Celebrating

Spiritual Programs
 Other Ministry Work
 Caring
 Spiritual Programs
 Participating

Spiritual Programs

Spiritual Programs
 Celebrating
 Evangelization

Development
 Caring
 Spiritual Programs
 Participating

Celebrating

Spiritual Programs
 Spiritual Programs
 Evangelization

Knights of Columbus

Landscape Committee
 Learning Circle Nursery School
 Lectors
 Legion of Mary
 Life in the Spirit Seminar
 Life Teen Program
 Life Teen Service & Outreach Team
 Liturgy Committee
 Liturgy of the Word for Children
 Long Range Planning

Marriage Encounter
 Men's Bible Study
 Middle School Ministry
 Middle School Summer Camp
 Ministry to the Homebound
 Moms & Tots Group
 Music Ministry:
 Adult Choir
 Children's Choir
 Funeral Choir
 Life Teen Ensemble
 Liturgical Cantors
 Praise and Worship Ensemble

Natural Family Planning
 Neumann Senior Adults
 Neumann Small Faith Communities

P. S. R. (Parish School of Religion)
 P. S. R. Preschool & Kindergarten
 P. S. R. Special Education

Parish Festival
 Parish Mission
 Prayer Teams After Mass

Recreation
 Rite of Christian Initiation
 For Adults (R.C.I.A.)

Sacristans
 SJN Wellness Ministry
 SJN Catholic Singles group

Evangelization

Development
 Teaching
 Celebrating
 Spiritual Programs
 Spiritual Programs
 Teaching
 Teaching
 Celebrating
 Celebrating
 Development

Teaching
 Teaching
 Teaching
 Teaching
 Caring
 Participating
 Celebrating
 Celebrating
 Celebrating
 Celebrating
 Celebrating
 Celebrating

Teaching
 Participating
 Spiritual Programs

Teaching
 Teaching
 Teaching

Participating
 Spiritual Programs
 Spiritual Programs

Participating

Evangelization

Celebrating
 Caring
 Participating

Social Concerns Committee
Sponsor Couple Program
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Ss. Joseph & John Interpar. School

Caring
Teaching
Caring
Teaching

Telephone Caller
Tuesday AM Bible Sharing

Other Ministry Work
Teaching

Ushers

Celebrating

Vacation Bible School

Teaching

Welcome and Registration
Women's Spirituality

Evangelizing
Spiritual Programs

Youth Sports (C.Y.O.)

Participating

PRAYER OF ST JOHN NEUMANN

Merciful Father, You have given me all that I need in this world, even life itself. In all my daily needs, help me to remember the needs of others, too. Make me aware of the need to pray to You, not just for myself; but for the Church, the Pope, for the clergy and for people who suffer any need.

Make me selfless as Saint John Neumann was. Throughout my life, give me grace to direct my first thoughts to the service of You and of others. Make my prayer - "Your will be done" knowing that in Your mercy and love, Your will for me is my sanctification. I ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.