



**PARISH PHONES**

Parish Office: 412-366-2020  
Fax: 412-366-2866  
Religious Ed: 412-366-5885

**PARISH STAFF**

**Parish Office Ext. 10**  
**Religious Education Office Ext.12**

**Rev. Albin C. McGinnis, Ext. 20**  
*Pastor and Trust Administrator*  
*pastor2@stjohnneumannpgh.org*

**Barbara Stokes, Ext. 13**  
*Director for Religious Education,*  
*Family and Sacramental Ministries*

**Barbara Matera, Ext. 18**  
*Director for Religious Education,*  
*Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*

**Josh Wattenbarger, Ext. 16**  
*Director of Youth Ministry*

**Connor Flanagan, Ext. 14**  
*Youth Minister*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL  
THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT,  
PRESENCE AND CARE!  
St John Neumann Staff**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

9:30 - 10:00 AM Saturday (or by appointment; call the Office)

**Sacrament of Baptism:**

Celebrated on the last Sunday of every month or during Mass by appointment only - call the Parish Office. Parents are to attend Baptism preparation classes; for class information please call 412-366-5885 (ext. 12).

**Sacrament of Matrimony:**

Contact the Parish Office at least 6 months prior to Wedding Date. Next date to be announced. For more information please call 412-366-5885 (ext 12).

**Web Site:** [www.stjohnneumannpgh.org](http://www.stjohnneumannpgh.org)

**Prayer Site:** <http://stjohnneumannpghprayer.blogspot.com>

**Pastoral Council:** [sjnpc@stjohnneumannpgh.org](mailto:sjnpc@stjohnneumannpgh.org)

**Victim Assistance Hotline:** 1-888-808-1235

Mass Intentions



**SATURDAY, DEC. 24, VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS**

**4:00 PM** FOR THE PEOPLE OF SJN

**8:00 PM** FOR THE PEOPLE OF SJN

**11:00 PM** FOR THE PEOPLE OF SJN

**SUNDAY, DEC. 25, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**9:00 AM** FOR THE PEOPLE OF SJN

**11:00 AM** FOR THE PEOPLE OF SJN

**MONDAY, DEC. 26, ST. STEPHEN, first martyr**

9:00 AM JIM O'LEARY (John & Eileen Bates)

**TUESDAY, DEC. 27, ST. JOHN, apostle & evangelist**

9:00 AM GEORGIE O'LEARY (John & Iris Parks)

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28, THE HOLY INNOCENTS, martyrs**

**6:30 PM** CHUCK KARARY  
(George & Elisabeth Mandl)

**THURSDAY, DEC. 29**

9:00 AM ELIZABETH WESELINSKI  
(Overbaugh/Petrasek Families)

**FRIDAY, DEC. 30, THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

9:00 AM WILLIAM PAULOSKI (Tom Szmed)

**SATURDAY, DEC. 31**

5:30 PM TOMAS S. PENNAVARIA (Wolf Family)

**SUNDAY, JAN. 1, THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

8:00 AM REGIS RYAN (Parks Family)

9:30 AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF SJN

11:30AM NANCY LAVOICE  
(Jack & Mary McCluskey)

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

**Sat. Dec. 31 - 5:30 PM** - T. Hart, D. Wolf, M. & D. Dewey, C. & D. Hagen, L. Juhascik

**Sun. Jan. 1 - 8:00 AM** J. & I. McClenahan, E. Deutsch, I. & J. Parks, M. Kohler, B. Walls

**9:30 AM** - C. Antonelli, K. Magdic, F. Greco, M. & M. Scheerbaum, R. Miller, K. Deken

**11:30 AM** - B. Furiga, R. Full, A. Guzzetti, A. & J. Burke, D. Schaults, A. Betancourt

**LECTOR**

Sat. Dec. 31	5:30 PM	L. Young, R. Martz
Sun. Jan. 1	8:00 AM	R. & B. McLaughlin
	9:30 AM	M. Matera, G. Jezerc
	11:30 AM	P. Furiga, J. Full

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. Dec. 31	5:30 PM	J. & D. Dougherty, A. Marrero
Sun. Jan. 1	8:00 AM	P. Yates, B. Radermacher, C. Gumash
	9:30 AM	D. & T. Antonelli, L. Jezerc
	11:30 AM	M. & A. Littlefield, C. Schweiger

**THIS WEEK...**

Sunday, Dec. 25

Monday, Dec. 26

Tuesday, Dec. 27

Wed., Dec. 28

Thurs. Dec. 29

9:45 AM Scripture Study

Friday, Dec. 30

Sat., Dec. 31

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Mt 2:13-18

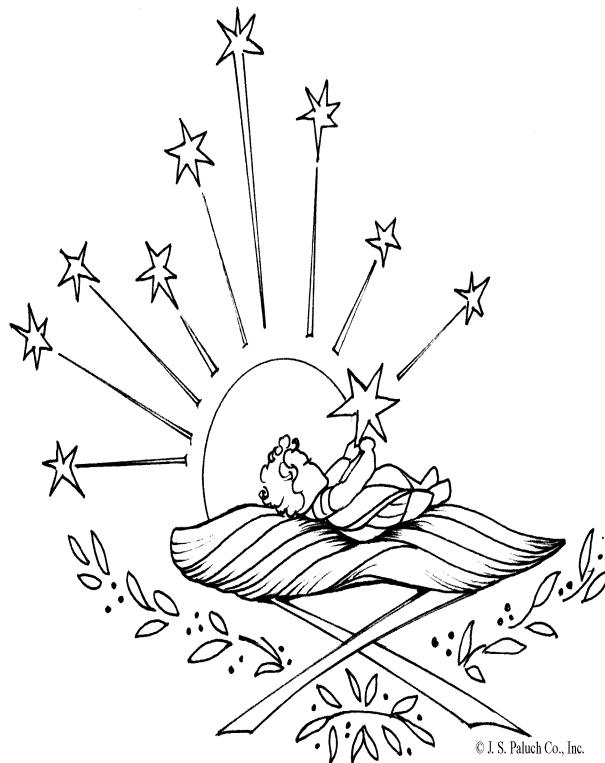
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

**DUE TO THE EARLY CHRISTMAS BULLETIN DEADLINE, THE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION FOR DEC. 18 WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT WEEK.**



**THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD**

On this day of gifts and gift-giving, it seems appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the great gift of God's Word. Because it is creative, God's Word always points to its author, always calls us to respond. Because it is powerful, God's Word can link the sublime with the ridiculous, the transcendent with the immanent, the divine with the human. Because it is graceful, God's Word establishes a relationship of deep intimacy between us and God.

At the heart of God's Word lies a tantalizing tension between the mysterious and the mundane. In our liturgical celebration, this unresolved tension both reveals the meaning of life for us and calls us to respond, to act upon that meaning.

Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift-giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life.

**SEEKERS AND SEARCHERS**

If you are new to this Catholic worship today and want to know more about it, we'd love to meet you. We are so glad that you are here on this special feast of Christmas. Please call Fr. Al or Barb Stokes to voice the questions you might have about this faith life. God's call comes often but needs some action on our part. We pray His call leads you to our community. Come and see.

**RCIA**

Our candidates who are preparing for full initiation into the Catholic faith will meet again on Sunday, Jan. 8 at 10:30 AM. Please continue to hold them in prayer during this holy season as they walk with us in God's love.



**ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Anyone in need of the power of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is invited to come to the 9 AM Mass on Sat. Jan. 7.

This sacrament offers strength to us in body, mind or spirit. It is a consolation to us individually and to our family to join in the sacramental grace of the church as we struggle with illness.

**CATHOLICISM**

Start the new year by seeking a greater understanding of what it is to be Catholic. What do Catholics believe? How – and why – are those beliefs celebrated? Join us in viewing the new DVD series, "Catholicism," hosted by Father Robert Baron and filmed in many locations around the world. We will offer the ten segments with discussion on consecutive Wednesday evenings from 7:30 – 9 PM beginning January 11, 2012. Sign up at Ext. 12 or just show up!

**NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, SUN. JAN. 1  
REGULAR WEEK-END SCHEDULE  
(No 5:30 PM Mass on Jan. 1)

**REMINDERS:**

NO 5:30 PM MASS ON CHRISTMAS  
(Mass is at 5:30 on Jan. 8 @Sts. John & Paul)  
MASS ON WEDS., DEC. 28, IS 6:30 PM ONLY  
NO 9 AM MASS ON DEC. 31

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

This annual Diocesan collection will be taken at all Masses on Christmas. Proceeds from this collection, formerly known as the "Orphans Collection," are used to support a number of programs which serve many young people in our diocese who depend on our generosity. Proceeds from this collection are credited toward our Parish Share Assessment. Please be generous.

**JESSE TREE**

The amazing awesome everlasting light of the Jesse Tree is Christ the Lord and so it is fitting that our Jesse Tree has become the Chrismon Tree for us at SJN. We remembered the many ancestors of Jesus during Advent from Adam through the prophets to Joseph and Mary and now we give thanks for the many ways Jesus is the Light of our world. Each Chrismon is a symbol of Christ and now reminds us of the New Testament story where Jesus' Light gives us a lesson of love and grace to share. Meditate on His name and example this Christmas season as you gather around the Chrismon tree in the Narthex. Thanks to all who helped us - especially Jeff Jezerc who painted the Jesse Tree symbols.

**DIVORCED & SEPARATED GROUP**

The Divorced and Separated support group jointly sponsored by Sts. John & Paul, St. Richard and St. John Neumann parishes will begin its next 13 week cycle of meetings on January 9, 2012. This group provides caring support to anyone who is experiencing the pain of separation or divorce.

**Meetings are held on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:45 PM at St. John Neumann Church in Conference Room A in the Religious Education Hall.**

Anyone who has questions or would like more information should contact Ralph Joy (412-741-5456 or rjoy205@verizon.net)

**GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS**

- ?? There will be **NO Family Masses** on Wednesday, December 28. Family Masses will start up again on January 4 at 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. Our patron Saint John Neumann will make a special appearance as we celebrate the vigil of his feast day.
- ?? **Lector training** for children who are in at least 3<sup>d</sup> grade will take place in the church on Thursday, January 5 from 7-7:30 p.m.
- ?? For our first **Family Catechetical event**, you can choose Saturday, January 7 from 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. (before 5:30 Mass) or Sunday, January 8 from 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. (after 11:30 Mass). We will celebrate the Journey of the Magi.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST COMMUNION**

If you have a child preparing for these awesome sacraments in 2012, please remember that the date you've chosen for First Reconciliation Family Activity is coming soon. **It is scheduled for either Tuesday, Jan 10 or Thursday, Jan 12 from 4 to 7pm.** Please check your time and date. Call the office if you aren't sure of your choice. Activity begins every 30 minutes. This is a most important part of our sacrament preparation. Thanks for your cooperation.

**BAPTISM PREP**

Every big step requires some preparation. Bringing a child to the sacrament of Baptism is a wondrous step in the life of a family and in the life of the faith community. If you anticipate this event soon, plan now to come and reflect on its significance and grace. **On Sunday, January 22 from 10:30 till noon, a team couple from SJN will lead the session on the signs and symbols and power of this sacrament.** Call the Rel Ed office to register.

**SILVER RING THING**

The Silver Ring Thing is a high-tech, high-energy performance that educates teens about the benefits of remaining abstinent until marriage and the dangers of promiscuous behavior. It will be held on Jan. 13 from 6:30 - 9:30 PM at Seton-LaSalle High School. Email youthministry@diopitt.org for more info.



**FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**

- ?? We will have our regular monthly collection for Perry Hilltop Food Bank.
- ?? Blood Pressure Screening after Masses in Conf. Room B. on **Jan. 7/8.**

**MARRIAGE PREP**

If you anticipate the celebration of marriage in the coming year, now is the time to make your plan for marriage prep. At SJN, a dedicated group of team couples and both Fr. Al and Barb Stokes contribute time, energy, and reflections to make the day an awesome experience and firm foundation for sacramental life. **Our next session is Saturday, Feb. 4.** Space is limited so register now by calling Barb Stokes or the office (ext. 12) for necessary paperwork.

**THANKS AND MORE THANKS**

So many hands helped to decorate our church for Christmas this year. We are grateful for each and every one of them. Special thanks to Gary and Stan who moved all the trees and so much more. Our worship is enhanced by the beauty that surrounds us.

**INSIGHTS NEWSLETTER**

**Monday, Jan. 30 is the deadline for articles to be considered for submission for the Lenten edition of our newsletter. All articles must be sent to Andrew James at ajames@stjohnneumannpgh.org or deposited in the Insights mail box in the Ed. Bldg. hallway by that date.**

**SOFTBALL TEAM**



Dust off your cleats and softball gloves. I am looking to start a softball team at St. John Neumann. The league is co-ed and players must be 16 years old to participate. We have a reserved spot in the North Hills Christian Softball League. If you are interested in playing or have questions, please contact Corey Lowry at 814-442-4076.

**BIBLE ENTHRONEMENT  
CURRENT 5TH GRADERS!**

**It's not too soon for you to mark your calendar for our Bible enthronement and presentation on Sunday, January 29 after the 11:30 AM Mass. To learn and follow Christ is the best plan we can make for the New Year.**



**PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN**

**ALL CHURCH VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN, the child sex abuse awareness session. The local sessions scheduled are:**

**Sts. John & Paul                      Wed, Jan. 18 @ 6:30 pm  
SJN    SUN, FEB 12 @ 1:00 PM**

Questions? or to register, please call 412-366-5885 Andrew James at x11 or Jeanette Pappert at x15. If you plan to volunteer for any SJN programs your clearances must be complete ASAP.

**GREATER PGH COMMUNITY FOOD BANK  
VOLUNTEER MONDAY, JAN. 25 BENEFITS PERRY  
HILLTOP FOOD BANK**

Earn free food for Perry Hilltop Food Bank on Wednesday, Jan. 25 at the Greater Pgh. Community Food Bank. We'll pack a nutritious food assortment on the assembly line for senior citizens in 11 counties. Meet at the church's back doors at 8:15 AM; return approx. 1:30 PM. Limit: 10 volunteers. Register at 412-366-5638, ext. 12 with your name, phone #, email address by noon Monday, Jan. 23. SJN parish has been volunteering at GPCFB since Jan. 1991. If you'd like more information, please call Sarah Schneider at 412-366-4927.

**WORLD VISION VOLUNTEERS  
WINTER SCHEDULE - NEXT DATE IS JAN. 11**

Make a positive difference in a needy person's life by going to the World Vision Int'l Relief Agency warehouse near Sewickley. We will sort and pack new clothing and other items for shipment to crisis areas around the world. Permission forms for ages 12-18 are in the lobby outside of Community Outreach Office. **Please call ext. 12 to register. We leave SJN at 9:00 AM, and return to church by 12:15 PM**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Even if the tree is down and all the gifts given, we are still celebrating the Christmas season until the Baptism of the Lord on January 9. Spread the joy and the good news that Emmanuel comes into our world right now! Look around....

**TAIZE SERVICE**

Thanks to all who prayed with us in our Taize service in December. On Friday of the first week of Ordinary time in 2012 (Jan. 13) plan to join us in prayer and Adoration at 7 PM.

**MONTHLY CALENDARS**

A reminder that our monthly calendar with all scheduled meetings and activities is posted on our SJN website. We also have printed copies of the calendar on the table as you are exiting the church.



**RETOUVAILLE WEEKEND**

**Are you feeling helpless because you think your MARRIAGE is heading downhill?** Don't despair. Retrouvaille (French for Rediscovery and pronounced Re-tro-vi) has proved to be an effective program that helps hurting couples rebuild their trust and renew their communication. Call today to start the healing process with a weekend beginning on January 13, 2012. Contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434 or e-mail 3041@retrouvaille.org. More information is available at www.helpourmarriage.com .

**GRACE UPON GRACE**

Joy abounds this day - in our hearts, our families, our churches, our world. Today it seems easier to see the Christ light in everyone we meet and to cherish the divine image in the human face. Even if our holiday isn't the ideal image the media presents, we can rejoice in knowing that "Of his fullness we have all had a share—love following upon love" (Jn 1:16)



**WOMEN'S RETREAT**

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED to St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center the weekend of January 13-15, 2012. **A Spiritual Spa** awaits you there. Nestled on the South Side Slopes, St. Paul's Retreat Center is a place that offers the comfort and relaxation of a spa that nourishes the spirit. It is a place where you can rest your body from the stresses of everyday life; reflect on your relationship with God; and revitalize your soul. For more information, please contact Sharon Wirtz at 412-364-8568.

**LOW GLUTEN HOSTS**

SJN offers low gluten hosts for those who require it. We have taken every precaution to assure you that the hosts will not be cross contaminated. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested in receiving these hosts.

**SNOWBALL IS COMING!  
SAVE SATURDAY, FEB. 11 FOR OUR  
ANNUAL SNOWBALL DANCE  
TICKET INFO COMING IN JANUARY**

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE BY BUD OZAR**

This Christmas remember your task as a parent is the same as Mary's: We must not let our doubts, fears and unfulfilled expectations get in the way of our loving ACCEPTANCE of our children.

**THANK YOU**

**Thank you for your generosity! We sent \$500 to Chimbote, Peru with the money we received from the sale of Christmas wreaths.**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

This season, in the light of the gospel of Matthew 25:40 ("I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.")

A quote from Dorothy Day:

"But now it is with the voice of our contemporaries that He speaks; with the eyes of store clerks, factory workers, and children that he gazes, with the hands of office workers, slum dwellers, and suburban housewives that He gives. It is with the feet of soldiers and tramps that He walks, and with the heart of anyone in need that He longs for shelter. And giving shelter or food to anyone who asks for it, or needs it, is giving to Christ.

# SJN 2012

You are not going to believe all of what's going on this year!!  
From meeting St. John Neumann in person, to an indoor snowball  
fight, examining some great art work and glorious riches!  
We have lots of fun things going on in 2012!

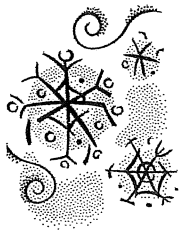


## JANUARY

4th: What do you know about our patron saint, St. John Neumann?  
20th: Snowball fight anyone?

Come prepared to build and battle **inside!!**

29th: Sip and See! Stave off the chill of winter by sampling  
homemade soups and coffee mixes. Mingle with friends. Get some  
new recipes. See what's up at different  
schools in our area. It'll warm your heart.



## FEBRUARY

11th: The annual SnowBALL! Always fun and a great time to  
dress up, get together and dance!

17th: SJNs got phat talent! Get ready for Fat Tuesday and  
celebrate Mardi Gras while we share our talents.

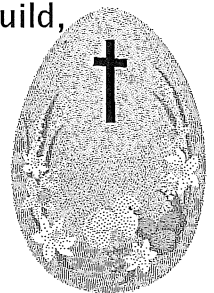
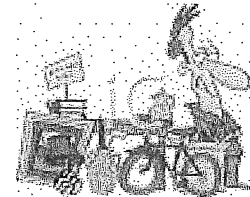


## MARCH

TBD: Rummage Sale! Looking to make a donation or  
get something new-to-you? Check it out.

TBD: Softball team spring training

24th: Soup or fast? The race is on! Are you fast? Super fast? Or just  
a soup-er? Join us for some soup and see how fast you can ski, build,  
stack and more!



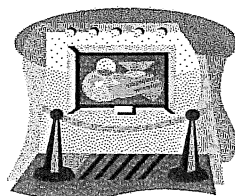
## APRIL

TBD: Red up the garden! Get ready for planting.

1st: Eggs-travaganza!! A giant Easter egg coloring  
party for the needy in our area. No foolin'.

14th: Celebrate the greatest season of the year with our Easter  
Festival! Games, booths, crafts, treats and fun for the whole family.

21st: The Art Auction - Freshen up your space with some new art!



*Stop by to see what's happening in 2012!*

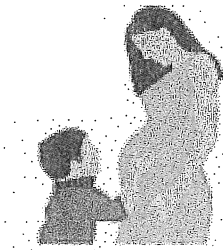
# SPN 2012

## MAY:

13th: Mother's Day tea party. Make something special with Mom today - a memory!

20th: Get in the party spirit! The Spirit will move you to celebrate with us for sure!

21st: Golf galore at Shannopin. Sure to be a par-tee!



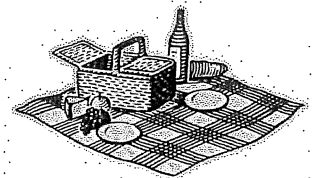
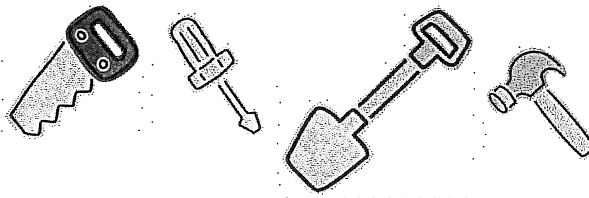
## JUNE

TBD: Explore the wilderness in Sunrise National Park at VBS

TBD: Middle School Summer Adventure

14th: Rad-Dad! Fathers are special in so many ways, we'll celebrate them today!

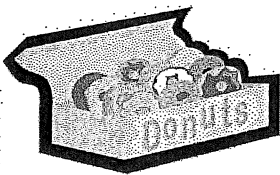
23rd - 30th: Appalachia Workcamp - Go into the hills of Appalachia to help our neighbors and earn some priceless life experience!



And so much more . . .

Lemonade luncheon with the ladies at Miryam's house.

The Parish Family Picnic



*Coffees, bistros, donuts, bread. . .*

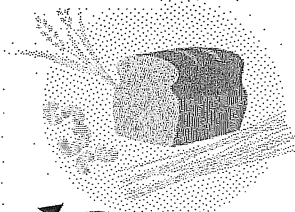
*we can always find a reason to be fed!*

*Come for any, come for all,*

*Bring a friend! We'll have a ball.*

*The secret to our fun, it's true,*

*is that it's only fun with YOU!*



*We hope to see you often in 2012!*