



St. John the Apostle

Roman Catholic Church

Valley Road

Clark/Linden NJ

908-486-6363

Ministries, Organizations & Activities

Version 18.70

Revised May 2018

St. John the Apostle's Ministries, Organizations & Activities

Interested in a group, please contact the Rectory at 1-908-486-6363,
leave your name and number and the contact person will call you back.

For School related organizations please call 1-732-388-1360

Check the parish website for the latest version at: <http://www.sjanj.net>

Altar Servers Fr. Andrew Onyemaobi, Joann Brink

This is a ministry open to boys and girls in the third grade or older, and men and women of all ages. Children starting in third grade participate in the altar server "shadow" program, learning from senior altar servers. Altar servers assist the priest or deacon at the various liturgies of the church. These include Sunday or daily Mass, funerals, weddings, Exposition, Benediction, processions, Stations of the Cross, and other prayer services of the church. Training for this ministry occurs at different intervals throughout the year.

Adult Altar Servers Deacon Ed Campanella and Tom Eck

At each Funeral Mass, adults serve as a lector, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and altar servers, in support of the priests and deacons, and provide consolation to the bereaving families and friends.

Bereavement Group Deacon Michael York, Glenn Kanapsky & Ken Goldstein

Overwhelmed by the pain of grief and loss through the death of a loved one? St. John's Bereavement Support Group will walk with you on your journey. Call Deacon Mike York at 732-388-1253 for meeting times (all calls are confidential)

Blood Bank Tom Dutkiewicz

To make sure blood is available for the needs of all St. John parishioners and their immediate family. There are two blood banks donation events per year.

The Beloved Disciple Charismatic Prayer Group Laura Hudak

All are welcome to attend Wednesday Meetings & Monthly Healing Masses. The Prayer Meetings are in the School Library, the 2nd, 4th (& 5th) Wednesdays of each month (7:45 - 9:30 PM)

The monthly Healing Mass is celebrated every 3rd Wednesday of the month (7:45 - 9:45 PM).

At the prayer meeting, men and women of all ages gather for a time of praise and worship with lively music, scripture readings, member-given witnesses or teaching, followed by a time of intercessory prayer, socializing and fellowship. The Monthly Healing Mass is a lively celebration of the Holy Mass with ample time for praise & worship as well as silence.

Cenacle of Life Joan Dennison

Join us as we pray with our Blessed Mother to petition our Lord for the end of abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, cloning, artificial contraception, capital punishment, and assisted suicide. The Cenacle of Life is a prayer group that prays two rosaries (ten mysteries) offering the rosaries up with fasting. Each member fasts one day a week on bread and water, to end the culture of death in our state, our country and the world. Those that cannot fast on bread and water, due to sickness, age or circumstances, can offer up a day of fasting in the manner that they are able (i.e. from, such as watching television or talking on the telephone, etc). They offer up their fasts - at the prayer group - with the rosaries prayed. The group recites a *Prayer of Offering*. Our Cenacle of Life prayer group meets in the Church every Thursday morning at 8:00 (before Mass) and prays one rosary (5 mysteries). Immediately following the 8:30 Mass, we pray another 5 mysteries of the rosary

Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Jack Cajuste

Athletic Association

This is an organization whose goal is to bring opportunities for the children of Saint John's Parish to participate in athletic team activities. Our objectives include instilling a cooperative team spirit while stressing the importance of sportsmanship and the ability to work with others.

Communion and Liberation CL (Comunione e Liberazione) Sara Lancellotti

CL is a lay Catholic movement in the Church which started in Italy and is present in over 70 countries. Fr. Luigi Giussani, stressed that faith is reasonable and can be verified in our daily lives. CL is known for its numerous charitable, cultural and educational initiatives. CL meets on Wednesday mornings during the school year at 10 am in the Rectory parlor. The Movement's official publication is the international monthly magazine *Tracce-Litterae Communionis*, published in English as *Traces*. <http://english.clonline.org/>

CYO Emmaus Youth Group Rev. Phil Latronico

A gathering of youth, young adult, and adults who meet on Sundays for the 7 PM Youth Liturgy and Tuesdays from 8 to 10 PM for community building activities that include: discussion, prayer, role play and social action

Religious Education (CCD) Deacon Michael York, Amy Giglio and Dara Olesinski

The religious education program is for public school children from grades K through 8. Classes are held from September to May. Children must complete religious education grades 1 through 8 in order to give them a basic foundation upon which to build their lives as committed Roman Catholics.

Vacation Bible School (pre-K to grade 5) is available in the second week of July each year

Christian Life Program "Couples for Christ" & "Singles for Christ" Sonny Aguilung

This ministry seeks to foster the renewal of Catholic Christian family life in the whole Church beginning with the members of our parish. The primary means used to begin this process of renewal is the Christian Life Program. This is a series of gatherings designed to help married couples and singles live lives rooted in Christ. This seminar's program presents the basic gospel message of God's love, the need for redemption through Christ Jesus and living a victorious life in the power of the Holy Spirit. These teachings are given in the context of the Sacraments and the whole life of the Church. With each talk there is a personal witness to know God's grace is working in someone's life today. This is also an introduction to the blessing of faith support groups. The Christian Life Program is designed to lead into faith and life support groups based on one's age and state in life (i.e., married or single). "Couples for Christ" & "Singles for Christ" is an outreach of the Family Life Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Finance Council Fr. Robert McBride

The Church Finance Council is made up of interested parishioners who are responsible for drawing up and monitoring the Church budget. Monthly meetings are held. After quarterly reviews by an outside accountant they meet with the Pastor to evaluate and publish results via an annual report. The council also has the responsibility of authorizing expenditures for both the school and church. Members are appointed by the pastor

Altar Ministry Coordinating & Scheduling: JoAnn Brink

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are lay men and women who assist the mission of the Church in bringing Holy Communion to the homebound, those in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and hospitals. They also assist priests and deacons at Mass in the distribution of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Provisions are made for training so that persons may receive a mandate from the Archdiocese of Newark.

Lectors are lay men and women who proclaim sacred scripture and intercessory prayers at Mass on Sundays, holy days and weekdays. Provisions are made to provide training. Lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion also function on special holiday liturgies, and participate in seasonal church decorating, periodic after-Mass fellowship socials and focused exercises of faith and act as greeters.

MilAve Devotion of America Carmen Garcon

We pray the Hail Mary 1000 times and conclude with the Divine Mercy Chaplet on the last Saturday of every month from 11am-3pm. Every language is welcome. We honor Our Lady's apparitions on May 13 and October 13 with candle light processions. Please join us or email your prayer request to milavedevotion@verizon.net. Please visit us our sites at www.milavedevotion.org and www.regnigratia.org

Ministers of Hospitality (Ushers)

This group of men and women greet and help seat parishioners at Masses. They also represent the guard of honor for the celebrating priest and are responsible for all Sunday and Holy Day collections.

Music Ministry Patricia Woolley, Director of Music Ministry/Organist,
patw_organist@comcast.net; Krystelle Pring, Assistant Organist

Adult Choir All singers H.S. age and older are welcome to join the Adult Choir so small choral groups can support singing at each Mass. The full choir will sing at special liturgies and solemnities, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. For the Festive celebrations of Christmas & Easter instrumentalists are invited! The Adult Choir meets Tuesday evenings after the 7 p.m. Mass (7:30 to 9 p.m.) September thru early May.

Psalms & Cantors Assist in leading the Acclamations, Psalms and hymns at Mass. Personal and group training is available so music can be learned proficiently and at an individual pace and musical level.

Children's Choir All children of the parish family grade K - Jr. High, are invited to join the Children's Choir, and attend either scheduled rehearsal: Monday 6:25 - 6:55 p.m.; or Tuesday 5:00 - 5:40 p.m. The Children's Choir meets late September thru the end of April.

Youth Choir Matt Oganowski Folk group provides music service to the church that is geared toward encouraging participation in the Mass by young Catholics through the use of contemporary liturgical music at the Sunday 7 p.m. Mass. Practice is from 5:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings. Parish youth, high school age and above are welcome.

Neo-Catechumenal Way Fr. Paul Passant

Provides a catechesis or explanation of the Catholic faith to adults who wish to deepen and renew their faith. The catechesis is held two nights a week for a period of eight weeks. This is followed by a weekend retreat. After this, those who wish may meet as a small community once a week for the study of scriptures and once for liturgy.

Pre-Cana Fr. Andrew Onyemaobi, Bill & Cristina Spann

This is a ministry of the Archdiocese that is led by married couples from our parish. It is designed to help prepare engaged couples from this and other parishes for Christian Marriage. It involves lively talks on four central areas: Communication, Family Life, Sexuality and Finances. Following each of the talks, the material is discussed in small groups that are facilitated by married couples or the engaged couples go off on their own with discussion questions. Each Pre-Cana has a priest who is actively involved in the weekend. He reinforces the married couple's teachings on the centrality of faith for a successful marriage, and he clarifies the Church's teaching in the various areas relating to the vocation of marriage. There is a penance service at St John's Pre-Cana, during which priests are available for individual Confession. St John's has a "one-day" Pre-Cana, which is given two times a year. All engaged couples who wish to be married in the Church must go through Pre Cana or its equivalent. To sign up for this or any Pre Cana, the Archdiocesan office should be contacted. This should be done after making contact with a priest or deacon from the parish.

Pastoral Council Marco Volero

Strongly recommended by Canon Law, a pastoral council collaborates with the Bishop and the Pastor, and all those pastorally associated with them to fulfill the total mission and ministry of the diocese and the parish.

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Barbara Malendro

Come and visit with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He is exposed 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. You may also sign up for a one-hour per week commitment; just call the rectory at 908-486-6363 or email adoration@sjanj.net.

Prison Outreach Deacons Michael York, Ed Campanella

‘Lord, when did we visit you in prison? Whatsoever you do for the least of my brothers you do unto me.’ This group of concerned lay persons and clergy reach out to local prisons with prayer, visits, and liturgy. This group is primarily involved in bringing Christ’s love and forgiveness to the forgotten people of our society either directly or through prayer or sacramentals (rosaries, crosses, medal, devotional books and bibles). Also supported is the inter-denominational Christian prison ministry of Kenosis of New Jersey which conducts yearly retreats at Northern & Eastern State Prisons and monthly group outreach monthly at Northern State.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Deacon Mike York

RCIA is for anyone discerning the Catholic faith and for those who are already Baptized Catholic, desiring First Communion and / or Confirmation. Contact Deacon Mike in the Religious Education Office to join RCIA or for more information / questions: 732-388-1253, myork@sjanj.net

Respect Life Ministry Ann Yamakiatis, Peggy Bardes, Tom Dutkiewicz

Our Heavenly Father is the Author of all life and teaches us, “I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live.” (Deuteronomy 30:19)

The Respect Life Ministry promotes what Blessed John Paul II refers to as a "Culture of Life" in his encyclical "Evangelium Vitae - The Gospel of Life". Through teachings, retreats, study sessions, on line resources, bulletin inserts, Monthly Holy Hours for Life on the 3rd Monday of each month following the 7pm Mass, the use of Social Media, and other methods of communication, this committee teaches, equips and encourages parishioners and non parishioners alike to be promoters and proclaimers of the Gospel of Life in word and deed. Topics include the respect of all human life from conception to natural death, the truth about the sacrament of marriage, contraception, natural family planning, the dignity of the sick and dying, living wills, euthanasia, violence, war, embryonic stem cell research and abortion.

Rosary Altar Society Fr. Robert McBride, Fran Mekula, Maryann Fiorillo

The society, open to female parishioners of all ages, meets on the first Monday (after the first Sunday) of each month throughout the year, after the 7 PM Mass, which includes the perpetual novena of the miraculous medal of our Blessed Mother Mary. The society also conducts an annual retreat, communion breakfast, May crowning, raffle, assembles rosary beads and supports many parish-wide functions and celebrations. The society also cares for and maintains the cleanliness and appearance of the altar, sacristy, liturgical vestments, altar cloths and sacred accoutrements, which includes the creation of hand-made baptismal garments.

Saint Vincent DePaul Society Jim Finnegan and Dave Thornton

The Society is funded through the offering boxes in the church, and other direct donations. All monies collected go to those of our parish family who have fallen on difficult times and depending upon resources, size of family, and any other extenuating circumstances. We issue gift certificates to local supermarkets. This society also operates the Parish Food Pantry, to which our parishioners donate non-perishable food. The Thanksgiving Food Drive also helps inner-city Catholic Church pantries, but only after our parish’s needs are met. Clients are known ONLY to the members of our Society.

Saint John’s Food Pantry MaryAnn Fiorillo

(Hillside Community Foodbank/America’s Second Harvest/USDA)

Food for the disadvantaged – Second & Fourth Friday 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM or 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM (see bulletin) **or on immediate emergency need** - Eligible recipients receive bags of groceries. Eligibility is based on possession of a Senior PAAD card, being disabled and on Medicaid, Kids Care, or low income according to Federal

Guidelines. Families with dependent children are especially encouraged to stop in. We are housed in the basement of the McGuinness Center (former convent). Use the exterior stairway that adjoins the parking lot.

Saint John the Apostle's Social Concerns Committee Johanna Desiderio

The goal of the Social Concerns Committee is to respond to the needs of the people of our community. Some of this is done by visiting the sick, taking elderly or handicapped people to Sunday Mass, transporting people for doctor or hospital appointments, helping with food shopping or other such services. Other activities include: *Mass of the Anointing*: Once a year, October, we assist with this Mass.

Fruit Baskets: At Thanksgiving our committee makes and delivers fruit baskets to our shut-ins.

Giving Tree: During Advent, a Giving Tree is set-up in the sanctuary. Parishioners bring gifts, which are sorted and delivered to needy families and charitable groups.

Meal for St. Joseph's, Elizabeth: On the fifth Saturday of each month, a large group of volunteers prepare and take food to St. Joseph's in Elizabeth where they serve a hearty meal to more than two hundred homeless people from the area. Maria Chaillet is in charge of this ministry.

Sandwich Program for St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral in Newark: Every Tuesday, a small group of volunteers meet and make thirty loaves of sandwiches which are taken to Newark, where they are distributed to lines of people who come in need of food.

Sandwich Program for St. John's in Newark: Each third Friday of the month there is a parish-wide collection of sandwiches, fruit juice drinks, and other food items which are brought to the parking lot before 9:00 a.m. The sandwiches are delivered to by Margaret Hickey.

St. John the Apostle School Alumni Association

President Joanne Seebode,

The Alumni association serves current students, past graduates, faculty, staff, parents and friends of St. John the Apostle School. Our goals include keeping in touch with one another as well as updating alumni with the latest activities, challenges and goals of St. John the Apostle School. We hope to assist past graduates renew friendships, offer networking opportunities with one another and aid students through scholarships and enrichment programs. We meet several times a year and information and meeting dates can be found by clicking on the Alumni Link on the School Website see: <http://www.sjanj.org/sjac/ALUMNI/>

Scouting

Boy Scouts of America Troup 330 Matt Dohn Patrick Pecoraro **Cub Scouts** Monique Torre It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make good ethical choices during their lifetime to achieve their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law. Boy scouting is available to young men from sixth grade, age 10 to 18. Cub Scouts/Tiger Scouts are for ages from first grade (age 7) through fifth grade (age 11). Troup 330 has achieved 100 Eagle Scouts since its beginning.

Girl Scouts Alyson Daikalo Girls' Scouts is an organization for girls from kindergarten through high school. At St. John's we have troops at all levels. The girls do activities that teach life skills and expose them to many different areas of interest that enrich them as they grow. The object is to have fun while learning. Groups include: Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors.

Spirit & Truth Young Adult Eucharistic Committee Fr. Andrew Onyemaobi and Peggy Nunez

Spirit and Truth is a community of young adults open to all people ages 18-40. The mission of the group is to bring young adults into a deeper relationship with Jesus through regular adoration of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. The group meets every Friday night at St. John's from 8-10pm for adoration in a reverent and spirited setting that includes praise and worship music, scripture readings, member-given witnesses, and social fellowship. The group functions as a local chapter of a national organization, by the same name, "Spirit and Truth Eucharistic Adoration Communities" (www.sandt.org). Spirit & Truth has also been involved at St John's in such things as Pre-Cana, visiting shut-ins, as well as assisting with youth and young adult outreaches on the Archdiocesan level and raising funds for the needy.. There are from 20 to 40 young adults who come each week.

University of the Philippines Alumni and Friends, Rondalla Diane Valencia

A group of Filipino parishioners, who meet weekly to practice Filipino music, provide concerts and

promote better understanding of Filipino culture.