

June 2021



St. John Neumann Catholic Community

Staffed by Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

Current Mass Times

Saturday: 5 p.m.

Sunday: 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m. (español)

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.

[Sign up to attend a Mass in person](#)
[Watch a livestreamed or recorded Mass](#)

Confession

Saturday: 10-10:30 a.m. (English)

Sunday: 3-4 p.m. (español)

Visit our website

Pastor's Perspective

The Times Ahead

Dear Friends,

I am writing this column a few days before the Memorial Day Holiday, on the brink of the unofficial start of summer. May and June bring an abundance of celebratory activities – we've already celebrated Mother's Day, many of us will celebrate the graduation of loved ones from high school or college, and Father's Day is coming. There is excitement and joy in the air. And, as we enter summer, we are also seeing our nation emerging from the COVID-19 Pandemic, cautiously optimistic that over a year of lockdowns, masks, and social distancing are behind us. But, as I talk to parishioners and friends, I am learning that simply "flipping the switch" and turning off the concern over the genuine risks that COVID-19 poses all at once is no easy task. I sense there is hesitancy and abundant caution as we begin to move toward

normal – especially among families of young children. These feelings are understandable.

After graduating from college and even high school, I remember it was a time to find my way and direction, not only out in the world but also within me. While there were many new opportunities in front of me, I knew that benefiting from them would require that I did my best to make good decisions to help navigate those years. These feelings that I had are not unlike what is currently happening to all of us and will continue happening over the next few months of our lives – a lot of what happens next in our parish community, state, and nation depends on how we navigate the waters of our post-pandemic world. Based on all available data points, we will need to make wise decisions to decide what is best for ourselves, our family, and our parish family. There will be no “one size fits all” solution. As we begin this journey and prepare to navigate these waters, I know I need to create some space to gain perspective. Even more than this, I know I can’t brave this journey alone – I need to lean on the Holy Spirit and trust the Spirit will endow me with gifts and a good compass to guide me in the months ahead.

As we enter into a summer that may be busier than last – let us all create some space to gain a healthy perspective and set aside some time to refresh and renew ourselves. Let us all appreciate each other and give individuals and families who are making complex decisions about their futures during this transition the appreciation and respect they deserve. No matter what we find ourselves doing this summer – let us all lean on the guidance and love of the Holy Spirit as we find our ways back to “normal.”

Blessings,
Fr. Joe

News From Bishop Burbidge

Dispensation for Mass Attendance Ending June 26

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge has announced that the Dispensation for Mass Attendance, which has been in effect since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic, will expire on the weekend of June 26. To read Bishop Burbidge's entire message, [click below](#).



Catechetical Corner

WorkCamp: Lessons in Faith **by Nick Buck**

“Just as each of us is unique, so too is our discovery of God”
(Deacon John Wagner)

I grew up Catholic, but, frankly, I went through the motions for most of my life. In my 40s, I'd never gotten involved in my Parish, and I'd never experienced Adoration. When my freshman daughter signed up for WorkCamp I agreed to be a Crew Leader because they were short-handed. Little did I know I would finally get to meet Jesus Christ after all those years of “being Catholic.”

WorkCamp is a week-long intentional Christian community formed in the Diocese of Arlington to provide opportunities for youth to deepen (or start) a relationship with Jesus Christ through faith works. During the day, crews of 5-6 teens led by an adult crew leader and a project contractor repair homes of those in need, making the houses warmer, safer, and drier. In the evening, the community gathers together for games, testimony, music, and faith sharing. Sacraments infuse the week with daily Mass and an evening of Adoration and Reconciliation. WorkCamp's spiritual and service components provide ideal conditions to see God in a new way and deepen our relationship with Him.

As I arrived at WorkCamp, my feeling was, “I am going to change others.” Then I experienced Adoration. For the first time in my life, I heard God speak to me. I was the one who was changed, forever and for the better. Fifteen years later, I'm a lot further along in my faith journey and trusting in God's plan for my life.

Some things I've learned along the way at WorkCamp (there are true stories around each):

- Step 1 (and most important) Being in a relationship with God is being open to hearing His voice.
- Service provides a mechanism to encounter Jesus where He is. Jesus is present in every person, but we typically don't recognize Him. The challenge is in actively looking for Him in others.
- We confuse “seeing” with “eye-sight.” Seeing Jesus is “faith sight.” The encounter is profound, and it changes the way we see others.
- Considering Jesus is in every person, encounters with difficult people, or cries from help from troubled souls, become opportunities for us to grow. Understanding this at the moment is powerful.

- Every moment of the day, every encounter, every situation, every conversation is an opportunity to recognize God's Will.

We are all on Faith Journeys, and our discovery of God is indeed unique. If you aren't sure where you are, try service to others and an evening of Adoration as places to start.

Catholic Mass Explained: The First Epiclesis

By Fr. Don Heet, OSFS

Father Heet continues his monthly series with discussion of The Eucharistic Prayer - The First Epiclesis



“Epiclesis.” Now there is a \$5.00 word if ever there was one. But it is an important concept. After the presider recounts what God has done for his people in the past – one of the reasons we give God “thanks and prayer” - he extends his hands over the gifts and asks the Holy Spirit to come down and transform the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. That prayer, invoking the Holy Spirit, is the epiclesis. The General Instruction on the Roman Missal states: “The epiclesis [is the prayer] in which, by means of particular invocations, the Church implores the power of the Holy Spirit that the gifts offered by human hands be consecrated, that is, become Christ’s Body and Blood, and that the unblemished sacrificial Victim to be consumed in Communion may be for the salvation of those who will partake of it.” The understanding that the epiclesis is the “moment” when the Holy Spirit descends upon the gifts is highlighted in Eucharistic Prayers II and III; however, there is no specific prayer of epiclesis in the first Eucharistic prayer, also known as the Roman Canon. Reflecting on its absence from the Eucharistic prayer that the Church used for well over a thousand years, many liturgists will argue that it is the Eucharistic prayer as a whole in which the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ and that looking for specific moments (whether the epiclesis or the consecration/words of institution) when this happens is counterproductive. However, be that as it may, the epiclesis reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit, operating through the Church, that makes Christ present for us in the Eucharist.

“When you encounter difficulties and contradictions, do not try to

break them, but bend them with gentleness and time.”

St. Francis de Sales

Parishioner Spotlight

Lourdes Sandoval


How long have you been a parishioner? "I have been a parishioner for 15 years, joining the parish in 2006."



What inspired you to get involved in the Parish Council? "I graduated with my bachelor's degree from West Virginia University back in December 2017 and decided to move back home. Most people at SJN know my family (my dad is one of the Deacons and my mom is the Hispanic Coordinator), which is great, but I wanted to be involved in some way to put myself out there as "Lourdes Sandoval," not their daughter if that makes sense. My dad was part of the council years ago, and I realized that it would be an amazing opportunity to get involved with the Pastoral Council. I'll be honest. I was a bit worried that I was not going to be selected. but I am so happy that I was."

What is your best memory of being on the Council? "My best memory for being on the Council? I will have to say meeting other parishioners on the Council that I've never had the opportunity to meet. I believe I've been able to make lifelong friendships with my fellow council members, and I hope they feel the same too! Another best memory would be serving as their Chair this year. This pandemic has caused a shift in how we're able to live day in and day out, but being able to show my leadership amidst this pandemic, having meetings on zoom, it's something that I'll cherish."

Have you been involved in other SJN Ministries? And, if you have – which and did you enjoy that? "Ah yes! I am actively involved in several SJN ministries ever since I joined the parish. I guess we can start from the beginning. My sister and I were the first female altar servers for our Hispanic community, and we are blessed to see how that has flourished and inspired other young girls to partake in such a beautiful ministry. Another ministry I was actively involved in was a faith formation program for older children to receive their sacraments. I did that for years



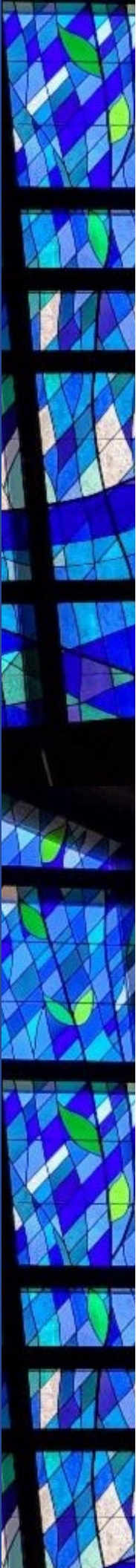
while I was in high school -- it's one of my favorite memories because I've been able to see the kids I've sponsored and the others grow up and become fine individuals, including my godson, Arturo. I am also a Eucharistic Minister and a Minister of the Word. I love being able to go up to the ambo and do one of the readings. Whether in English or Spanish, it always warms my heart when parishioners compliment me on the way I read. Reading the word in a way that conveys Christ's message is one gift I did not realize that I had.

Let's see, another ministry I've been involved in was being a catechist for a high school group with Bill Kelly. I was also actively participating as one of the coordinators for the weekly Mass they held on Wednesdays (where the focus was on young adults) before COVID-19 happened. That was a unique experience that I hope to continue sharing as soon as the Mass resumes.

I'm also a sponsor for one of the students of Niño Jesus, our sister parish in Ecuador. I had the opportunity to go to Ecuador to visit Niño Jesus with my family, Father Tom (may he rest in peace), and other parishioners from SJN. There's a funny story about this trip. During a Sunday Mass, we had the opportunity to express our thanks for God's blessings. I went up to the ambo and expressed my thanks for many things, including my 'grandpa' Tom." The people, in response, were mortified - forcing my mom to clarify that I called Fr. Tom 'grandpa' because I did not have one growing up. The people's relief, to my mom's explanation, was palpable.

I am also involved in RCIA. I find it humbling to be a sponsor and be part of that catechumen's journey to becoming Catholic. I'm also a part of the ACTION committee and Racial Justice ministry (I haven't been as active due to graduate school, but I find a way to continue to be involved when I can). Lastly, I was involved in both the tutoring and ESOL classes that are held here at SJN. That involvement was thanks to my mother, Jo-Ann Duggan, and John Dister. Sadly, due to COVID-19 and graduate school, I realized my participation in the classes was something I could no longer commit to (primarily because of COVID).

What do you like most about being Catholic? "Another great question! What do I like most about being Catholic? First, we believe in a God that is slow to anger, rich in kindness, loving, and forgiving. Second, my parents raised my sister and me to ensure we would attend Sunday Mass every weekend, and I will always cherish this. Now, as a young adult, I still find myself wanting to be at church; it's one of the only places where I feel I'm able to put whatever problems I may be having at work, school, or my personal life away and focus solely on the Mass,



coming out in a more serene mood. Lastly, I love being a part of such a welcoming community like SJN. I have personally felt that experience being an active member in both the Anglo and Hispanic community."

What are some fun facts about yourself? "Hmmm, a fun fact about myself....there are several! I'm the first in my family to pursue a master's degree, which is in social work. I tend to think in both languages (English and Spanish) pretty frequently; and, I've never broken a bone in my body (currently knocking on wood!!!!).

Learn more about **The Parish Council, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers and Ministers of the Word, Faith Formation, RCIA, Niño Jesús, and the ACTION Committee,**

Parish Events & Announcements

Important changes have been made to our Mass procedures here at St. John Neumann in regard to the lessening of COVID-19 restrictions. Please read about them [here](#).

The Knights of Columbus Family of Man Council #7566 is offering three \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors and students already in college. Further information and an application can be found on the Council's website, www.kofc7566.us.

Women Giving Back Clothing Drive - June 19-20

Click [here](#) to see what is needed and may God bless your generosity.

The Racial Justice Ministry invites you to a screening of the film "Selma," on Friday, June 25, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. This film depicts a milestone in the long struggle in our nation for voting rights and racial justice: the dramatic march to Selma and other events leading to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It also provides essential context for the recent upsurge in attacks on voting rights in a large number of states.

You can find the electronic SJN weekly bulletin on our website, both on the homepage and on [the bulletin webpage](#). Or, [sign up to have it delivered directly to your email inbox](#).

June is the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

As we begin to feel the warmth of summer, we can reflect that we celebrate the feasts of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 11) and the Immaculate Heart of Mary (June 12). God is Love and the Sacred Heart of Jesus — present on earth in the Blessed Sacrament — is the human manifestation of God's Love for men. Appropriately, June is considered the month for weddings where human hearts join and cooperate with the Creator in bringing forth new life. The family they create is a human reflection of the Blessed Trinity. Also on June 1 we celebrate the Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church. This feast is to be celebrated on the Monday following Pentecost.



Other principle feasts of this month are St. Justin (June 1), Sts. Marcellinus and Peter (June 2), St. Boniface (June 5), St. Ephrem (June 9), St. Romuald (June 19), Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More (June 22), the Birth of St. John the Baptist (June 24), St. Josemaria Escriva (June 26), the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul (June 29) and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome (June 30). The feast of St. Barnabas (June 11) is superseded by the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The feasts of St. Norbert (June 6), St. Anthony of Padua (June 13) and St. Cyril of Alexandria (June 27), are superseded by the Sunday liturgy.

To learn more about the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the promises that Jesus made to St. Margaret Mary, and significant prayers of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, click [here](#).

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.”

John 15:1-2