

## Comments from June 2021 survey:

- “Thank you for offering such insightful programs.”
- “So many great programs but so little time. I want to do them all. Having the option to view livestream after the event is so helpful.”
- “I admire the structure and organization of RJM ... impressive work thus far.... THANKS!”
- “Great mix of speakers, films and discussion opportunities with plenty of notice to sign up.”
- “I’ve been impressed with the diversity of RJM’s programs; loved the prayer service. Thank you!!!”



For more information or to join our email list, write [racial.justice.sjn@gmail.com](mailto:racial.justice.sjn@gmail.com)

Visit us at <https://saintjn.org/serving-our-parish-family/racial-justice-ministry/> and on Facebook.

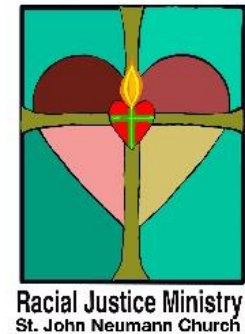
Artwork © Michael O’Neill McGrath, OSFS



We ask them [clergy, religious, and all the faithful] to fight the evil of racism by educating themselves, reflecting on their personal thoughts and actions, listening to the experience of those who have been affected by racism, and by developing and supporting programs that help repair the damages caused by racial discrimination. . . .

Racism can only end if we contend with the policies and institutional barriers that perpetuate and preserve the inequality—economic and social—that we still see all around us. With renewed vigor, we call on the members of the Body of Christ to join others in advocating and promoting policies at all levels that will combat racism and its effects in our civic and social institutions.

*Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love – A Pastoral Letter Against Racism, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (2018)*



## Racial Justice Ministry St. John Neumann

Racism is evil because it attacks the inherent dignity of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God. The persistence of racism demands our attention now. Racism emerges in the actions and inactions of individuals; and it is embedded in our institutions and public policies. Our faith calls us both to personal conversion and to transformation of our society.

*U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (2020)*

<https://saintjn.org/serving-our-parish-family/racial-justice-ministry/>  
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## Our Mission:

The St. John Neumann Racial Justice Ministry seeks to *live Jesus* by working to make our parish a positive force for ending racism in our society and in the Catholic Church.

- Through prayer, study, and dialogue, we *educate ourselves and our fellow parishioners* about the history, current prevalence, and impact of racial inequities in our society and our Church.
- We *reflect on our own attitudes, behaviors, and experiences* shaped by the realities of racial privilege for some and discrimination and burdens for others in our society.
- We *advocate for public policies* that uphold the dignity of every person and eliminate racial disparities.
- We *foster a more inclusive parish community*, including through ecumenical and social engagement, seeking to make our parish one where “All Are Welcome,” living up to our faith and our parish motto.

## Program:

Our program has three main components:

1. *A series of films, talks, and discussions.* All parishioners (and guests) are welcome to participate in any of these events, without having to commit to the whole series.

2. *A set of multi-week study, discussion, and action programs* using materials from [JustFaith Ministries](#), the U.S. Catholic Bishops, and others. Everyone is welcome to participate in these programs as well, but participants are asked to commit to the entire eight weeks of any programs they sign up for.
3. *Membership recruitment and activities.* Parishioners are invited to sign up for the Racial Justice Ministry email list and get involved in other activities, including advocacy, liaison with other ministries in the parish, and ecumenical/interfaith engagement.



## 2020-2021 activities included:

- Showing of the film *Just Mercy* and small group discussion, September 2020.
- “The Virus of Racism” talk and discussion with Fr. Tuck Grinnell, September 2020.
- Showing of the film *Best of Enemies* and small group discussion, October 2020.
- Panel presentation, “The Diocese of Arlington Confronts Racism,” with Bridget Wilson and Jerry Cousin, November 2020.
- Panel presentation, ““Doing Justice: Racial Justice Issues before the Virginia General Assembly” with Jeff Caruso, Michael Stone, and Nora Demleitner, January 2021.
- “Racial Justice and the Catholic Church” nine-week program, January-March 2021.
- “The Church Is a Garden with Many Colors” talk with Bro. Mickey McGrath, March 2021.
- “Racial Justice and National Solidarity” talk with Ted Johnson, April 2021.
- “Hear O Lord: A Prayer Service to Lament Racism,” May 2021.
- Showing of the film *Selma* and small group discussion, June 2021.
- Voting rights discussion, July 2021.
- “St. Peter Claver, the Knights of Peter Claver, and More,” September 2021.
- Multiple offerings of three different eight-week racial justice programs from *JustFaith*, fall 2020 through fall 2021.